Par. 8.2.1.1.52
830

Monday,
21st December, 1953

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

OFFICIAL REPORT

PARLIAMENT SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price Six Annas (Inland)
Price Two Shillings (Foreign)

Dated 24.11.2014

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES
(Part I—Questions and Answers)
OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 21st December, 1953.

The House met at Half Past One of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

EVACUEE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNTS

*1147. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement of the Pakistan Minister of Communications, reported to have been made in Pakistan Parliament on the 28th September, 1953 to the effect "that negotiations had taken place between India and Pakistan on the question of verification of Savings Bank Accounts and Savings Certificates Claims and that actual work of transfer would begin as soon as liaison officers had been appointed on both sides"; and

(b) if so, whether Government have appointed the officers for the purpose?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Negotiations have taken place and the question of appointment of Liaison Officers is under the consideration of the Government.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any conference is fixed for this business just early in the future?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think these officers are going to be appointed shortly.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any assessment has been made so far of the value of the amount held by Indians and those held by Pakistanis?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Total claims registered, so far as the Indian side is concerned, number 1,45,265 and the amount is Rs. 7,22,05,232. Claims settled number 88,153 and the amount Rs. 4,21,32,135. Pending claims to be settled number 56,682, and the amount involved is Rs. 3,00,73,096. We have no knowledge of the number of claims and amounts registered by Pakistan nationals in that country.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether any interim relief is to be given to these people?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: As soon as the claims are verified and settled.

FISH

*1148. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to Para 9 of Chapter XXIII of the Planning Commission's Report and state:

(a) how much productivity of inland fisheries has been affected by the appearance of Water Hyacinth in impounded waters;

(b) whether the problem of weeding out the Water Hyacinth is common to the entire fresh water fisheries of India; and

(c) what percentage of the yield of inland fisheries is accounted for by fisheries in impounded waters?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Could I know whether Government have prepared the plan giving priority for this work in the absence of relative information about the possible destruction of inland fish by the growth of Water Hyacinth in impounded waters?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I would like to submit that inland fisheries is merely a State subject, whereas marine fisheries is directly under us and we are able to collect statistics because we have got sufficient machinery. Inland fisheries is under the States and there is ample provision in the Five Year Plan to set up a proper machinery to collect statistics and have a rough idea of the whole thing.

Shri V. P. Nayar: Are Government aware that this problem of Water Hyacinth destroying fish in inland fisheries is a problem only in four States, *viz.*, West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is correct, Sir. This Water Hyacinth is prevalent only in West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa where water is stagnant. We had an F.A.O. expert also by name Mr. Botke and according to him nearly two-thirds of entire West Bengal is affected by this.

Shri V. P. Nayar: In view of the answer to the question may I ask whether it is not a fact that the problem which is of so much importance only to West Bengal has been given priority in the Five Year Plan because the Minister of Fisheries in West Bengal happens to be a man with vested interests in West Bengal's inland fisheries?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that there are thousands of tanks which have been covered by Water Hyacinth, and some riverine fisheries in Assam also have been covered, and therefore, all that fish is not available? Is it also a fact....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let him put one question.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is a fact, according to the expert himself. He says where we could have had 500 lbs. of fish per acre of water, we are now producing 10 or 15 per cent. of the total production. It is a fact and it refers to three or four main States in India and we are going to take action.

Shri V. P. Nayar: May I ask one question?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

LAND REFORMS STUDIES

***1149. Shri S. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 33 for 3rd August, 1953 and state:

(a) the work done by the Special Division for Land Reforms Studies so far; and

(b) the States which have so far sent in their programmes for the fixation of ceiling on present holdings?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 24.]

(b) Land Reform Bills of Assam, Hyderabad, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal contain proposals for fixation of ceilings on existing holdings.

Shri S. N. Mishra: How many States have already undertaken land surveys to collect data for the fixation of ceilings on land holdings?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I have already replied in this House that we were sending a letter to all the States within a week. I think by this time it must have reached the States, and we expect the replies and report on this survey within six months from all the States.

Shri S. N. Mishra: I wanted to know whether some States have already undertaken land survey.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Regarding fixation of ceilings, what the Planning Commission and we felt was that there should be sufficient data about various types of holdings in the country, because the Planning Commission have stated that the ceiling should be about four times the average holding. The average holding differs from State to State. So, through this letter, we will be collecting information in each State and everything will depend upon that.

Shri S. N. Mishra: May I know whether the National Development Council which met only some time back gave some direction for the land reforms?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: They did not take any decision in that matter. They discussed the subject.

Shri Thimmaiah: May I ask....

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

POTATO DEVELOPMENT CENTRES

*1150. **Shri K. P. Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state what are the main factors which are taken into consideration for starting centres for the development of potatoes?

(b) How many centres have been started in the State of Bihar?

(c) Is there any proposal to start more centres in the Bihar State in the near future?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Centres are generally established at Agricultural Stations in the more important potato growing States. The choice of a centre is determined by (i) its importance from the point of view of potato cultivation, (ii) availability of cold storage facilities for seed specially in the case of centres in the plains and (iii) availability of irrigation facilities.

(b) Four.

(c) No.

Shri K. P. Sinha: May I know the names of the Stations?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The stations are: Central Potato Research Institute, Patna, Bihar; Potato Breeding sub-station, Simla, Punjab. I can read out. There are 15 stations all over the country. I will place it on the Table. [*See* **Appendix V, annexure** No. 25.]

Shri Radhelal Vyas: May I know whether there is any centre in Himachal Pradesh and if so, what development work has so far been done by this centre in the State of Himachal Pradesh?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There is one centre in Himachal Pradesh. In fact, Himachal Pradesh is one of the important places from the point of view of Indian potatoes because they supply almost all the seed potatoes for the rest of the country. It is the best seed potato in the absence of imported potatoes now, and we are taking all interest to develop that potato.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: My question has not been answered.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Mr. Nayar.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: You mean the name of the Centre?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri V. P. Nayar: For what object such centres are run? Is it to improve the yield of potatoes or to evolve new varieties of potatoes or to make cultivation of potatoes cheaper?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: It is for both. We carry on research to improve the various varieties. It will also increase the yield.

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the number of new varieties evolved in these stations, and the machinery for co-ordinating the results of research carried on in the various stations?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I want notice of that question.

INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

*1152. **Shri B. K. Das:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the problems referred to the Indian Council of Agricultural Education by the State Governments and the advice given to them: and

(b) whether any model syllabuses have been prepared by the Council for adoption by the teaching institutions?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) As an illustration a statement showing the nature of problems referred to the I.C.A.E. by the State Governments and the advice given to them is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 26.]

(b) The Indian Council of Agricultural Education has suggested the framework within which the courses in each subject in the Agricultural Colleges should be revised. These recommendations have been communicated to the State Governments and Vice-Chancellors for their suggestions before a model syllabus is drawn up. Outline of a syllabus for Veterinary degree course have also been drawn up.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether this Council has recommended any uniform standard of agricultural education in the agricultural colleges in the different States?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, it has recommended a uniform standard in almost all the colleges because in some colleges we have three years course, in some places four years course. So, we wanted a sort of uniformity in the States.

Shri B. K. Das: Have the States made any representations regarding their difficulties in implementing that recommendation?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: There is a general agreement on this recommendation, though they have suggested some minor modifications to suit the local conditions.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: May I know whether there is any contact of this Indian Council of Agricultural Education with the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, the premier agricultural research centre in India?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: Yes, Sir.

KURLA-KARJAT RAILWAY LINE

*1153. **Shri Gidwani:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Secretary, Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Bombay, has represented to the Railway Board to undertake the construction of Kurla-Karjat Railway line *via* Panvel?

(b) Is it a fact that the above line was surveyed and a report was submitted to Government in 1948?

(c) When do Government propose to take action in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. A traffic survey was carried out in 1946 and the land survey in 1947. The report and estimate were submitted to Government in 1951.

(c) Not for the present.

Shri Gidwani: Is it a fact that this line, if constructed, will reduce the distance between Bombay and Panvel, and that between Bombay and Poona by 18 miles?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes; that is so.

Shri Gidwani: Is it also a fact that this will open up new possibilities for development in trade, and will meet the transport needs of a major portion of the salt industry in that part?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Very possibly it will.

Shri Gidwani: When is it proposed to construct that line?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said before, not for the present.

TUBE-WELLS IN NORTH BIHAR

***1159. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount which the Government of India have granted as loan to the Bihar Government for tube-well projects in North Bihar; and

(b) the number of tube-wells already sunk?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Rs. 83·01 lakhs.

(b) 295.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : ट्यूब वेलों को गाड़ने के लिये स्थान का चुनाव प्रान्तीय सरकार करती है या केन्द्रीय सरकार करती है ?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The contracts are entered into between the State Governments and the companies, and the Centre will give some directions.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : किस जगह ट्यूब वेल लगाया जाय इस को तय करने का अधिकार प्रान्तीय सरकार के हाथ में है या केन्द्रीय सरकार के ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री किदवई): प्रान्तीय सरकार के ।

Shri N. M. Lingam: May I know the number of exploratory wells sunk, out of the total number of wells sunk so far?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: This question does not refer to exploratory wells. We want to sink about 350 exploratory tube-wells under the tube-well project in the whole of India.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Have Government received any request from the public of Gandak area to divert these funds for the Gandak scheme?

Shri Kidwai: The hon. Member knows that part of the expenses are met by the Technical Aid Committee, and that is for the tube-wells, and not for the Gandak project.

ACQUISITION OF BUKHTIARPUR BIHAR LIGHT RAILWAY

***1160. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the dispute regarding the acquisition of the Bukhtiarpur Bihar Light Railway has been settled?

(b) Are Government aware of the public dissatisfaction regarding the present management of the Railway?

(c) If so, do Government propose to do anything in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The hon. Member refers, perhaps, to the dispute between the District Board of Patna and the Bukhtiarpur Bihar Light Railway Co., who previously owned the line. The Government of India do not have any detailed information regarding this matter.

(b) The Government have seen occasional reports on the subject.

(c) The Bihar Government are considering as to how best to deal with the situation and they have been suitably advised.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: May I know whether the Government are aware as to whether the accounts have been audited, after the B.B. Ligh

Railway was acquired by the District Board of Patna?

Shri Alagesan: Yes, this Railway is now being owned by the Patna District Board.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: I know that. I wanted to know whether Government are aware that when the accounts were audited, some embezzlements and irregularities of a serious nature were found out in the accounts. I wanted to know whether Government are aware of this fact.

Shri Alagesan: All that information should be with the District Board of Patna or with the Bihar State Government. We do not have the information here.

THEFT IN HOWRAH GOODS SHED

*1161. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 14 bales of cloth mysteriously disappeared from **the Howrah railway goods shed on or** about the 13th October, 1953?

(b) How many times have goods from the railway shed disappeared?

(c) Have Government taken any steps to find out the culprits?

(d) Are the Howrah G.R.P. taking proper steps to investigate the theft of the 14 bales of cloth?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir. It was noticed by the railway staff on the 13th October 1953 that 14 bales of cloth had been stolen from the Howrah goods shed.

(b) On 48 occasions such thefts from Howrah goods shed have been reported upto the middle of November, 1953.

(c) Yes, Sir. In as many as 20 cases the culprits concerned were detected and 32 culprits were sent up for trial. 14 of the culprits have already been convicted and 18 are awaiting trial.

(d) Yes, Sir.

सरदार ए० एस० सहगल : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि बहुत से हावड़ा शेड में काम करने वाले कर्मचारी भी इस में गुनहगार हैं ?

श्री शाहनवाज खां: आप जो कुछ कहते हैं उस की इत्तला हमें मिली है और कई एक जगहों पर यह भी साबित हो चुका है कि जो रेलवे में काम करने वाले हैं वह भी इन चोरियों में शामिल हैं ।

Shri Muniswamy: May I know whether these 14 bales were transmitted or received on indent at Howrah?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I do not have the exact information. But obviously they were received at Howrah by some local merchants, who were to take delivery of them there.

BOMBAY DOCK WORKERS

*1162. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dock Workers of Bombay staged a demonstration in front of the main office of the Bombay Port Trust on the 20th October, 1953 protesting against alleged refusal of payment of over time arrears;

(b) whether the Chairman met a deputation of the workers and discussed this matter with them;

(c) whether the Port Trust authorities have considered their demands; and

(d) if so, what is their decision?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) On the 20th October, 1953 when the Bombay Port Trust Board met to consider the question of extending the benefits of the Minimum Wages Act to registered Dock Workers with retrospective effect from the 15th March 1951, a section of the workers staged a demonstration in front of the Administrative Offices.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The Port Trust have extended the benefits of the Minimum Wages Act to the registered dock labourers as well as the casual dock labourers with effect from the 15th March, 1951.

Shri Gidwani: Is it proposed to give hereafter the benefit of the Minimum Wages Act, to the casual labourers?

Shri Alagesan: As I said just now, it has been extended to all categories of labourers.

PARCEL-HANDLING AT HOWRAH

*1163. **Shri Ramananda Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether complaints have been made to the Eastern Railway authorities about a lower amount of subsidy being paid for parcel-handling at Howrah Station on the basis of man-hour daily worked and pressed for its revision many a time in the past?

(b) If so, is anything being done in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). Some complaints to this effect were made in the past and in 1950 the amount of subsidy to be paid by the Railway was raised from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 7,700 per month.

A review in 1951 showed that the revised subsidy was on the liberal side, but no reduction was made.

Another review has now been undertaken, and the result thereof is awaited.

Shri Ramananda Das: How long will it take to finish the review?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is obviously not possible to lay down an exact date, but we are expecting it within a month or so.

DELHI MAIN STATION

*1164. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Northern Railway has decided to construct a two-storeyed building in place of the present third class waiting hall at the Delhi Junction; and

(b) if so, whether similar arrangements are going to be made at any other stations?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not for the present.

Shri Gidwani: Is it in the contemplation of Government to include the Victoria Terminus, Madras and Calcutta stations, under this scheme?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Not for the present.

Shri Gidwani: When will the work start in Delhi?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): It will be started in the current year.

Shri Gidwani: What will be its cost?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Rs. 9,88,956.

श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी: में यह जानना चाहता था कि राजकुमारी अमृत कौर मार्केट की जो साइट है जो कि नई दिल्ली रेलवे स्टेशन के लिये ली जाने वाली है क्या वह रेलवे को मिल गई है ? और अगर मिल गई है तो रेलवे स्टेशन बनाने का काम कब शुरू होगा ?

Shri Alagesan: This refers to Delhi Junction, Sir.

UNEMPLOYMENT

*1165. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the International Labour Organization has suggested any help to India to tackle the problem of unemployment; and

(b) if so, what is the nature of help suggested?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) and (b). No.

The Asian Field Office of the International Labour Organisation, however, had suggested to the Government of India to make a request under the United Nations Technical Assistance Programme for the services of an expert to assist in setting up an employment information programme within the Indian Employment Service. The Government did not consider it necessary to obtain the services of such an expert for this work.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, whether the Government do consider it necessary to find any media to have the problem of unemployment solved?

Shri V. V. Giri: The Planning Commission is seized of that work.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know, Sir, to what extent has the problem of unemployment been solved as a result of the efforts made by the Planning Commission which the hon. Minister just now referred to?

Shri V. V. Giri: It is too big a question for an answer to be given on the floor of the House at question time.

NON-TARIFF INSURANCE COMPANIES

Shri Bahadur Singh:
Sardar Hukam Singh:

(a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state whether Government have received any complaints against any non-tariff insurance companies to the effect that in cases of accidents by motor vehicles, people were not able to get benefit of compulsory third party insurance on account of several tactics adopted by such companies?

(b) Do Government propose to adopt any measures in this regard?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know, Sir, how many times have the exemptions been given to these non-tariff companies?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, I should say that these complaints have been generally received against tariff as well as non-tariff companies. The number of non-tariff companies is very small—perhaps 10 or 12 out of 400 insurance companies. I cannot give the number of occasions on which these complaints were received against the non-tariff companies.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Are the Government aware that non-tariff companies, charge rates much lower than those charged by tariff companies, but that in no case have they met the accident insurance claims of third parties?

Shri Alagesan: It is true, Sir, as the hon. Member says, that the tariff rates are lesser with these non-tariff companies than with the tariff companies. But I do not have information to corroborate that they have not paid on any occasion. In fact, these claims have to be paid to the third party. They have to establish their claims and when they go to court etc. certainly they are paid.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Were there any special considerations why these exemptions were being given to these companies which do not meet those risks of third parties when they are made to them?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, the hon. Member proceeds on the assumption that at no time have these companies met their liabilities to third parties, I am unable to concur in that.

Mr. Speaker: He wants to know the reasons why exemptions were given—whatever the other thing may be.

Shri Alagesan: In fact, the other companies have objected that these companies should be allowed to charge lesser tariffs. But Government have not been able to remove the exemption, Sir, because it, in a way, is a check against the tariff companies who put up their rates.

Sardar Hukam Singh: That is exactly the objection that the tariff companies have raised, because their rates, as fixed by them and approved by the Government, are much higher and people to save their money go to these non-tariff companies who defraud them and do not pay. They have not paid in a single instance an accident insurance claim that was filed with them. Do Government propose to take any action to protect people from being defrauded in this way?

Shri Alagesan: As I said, Sir, the third party can go to court and establish their claim. Then certainly the companies have to pay; they cannot evade.

Mr. Speaker: Next question. Mr. Heda.

Shri Raghavachari: I wanted to put a question on the previous question.

Mr. Speaker: I have already gone to the next question.

SUPPLY OF FOODGRAINS TO TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

***1168. Kumari Annie Mascarene:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent speech of the Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture in Madras regarding despatch of foodgrains from the surplus areas of Madras and Andhra to Travancore-Cochin State, foodgrains are proposed to be sent to the above State from the surplus areas;

(b) if so, what will be the quantity; and

(c) at what price?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). Yes, Travancore-Cochin are getting 15,000 tons of rice from Madras and 32,000 tons from Andhra on replacement basis. They are paying to the Madras and Andhra States the price of this rice at the wholesale issue rates of the two States, but will receive refund of the amounts paid when they return the rice in 1954.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that now rice is being sent from a shorter distance, whether the price will be reduced.

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): The question of price reduction in Travancore-Cochin does not arise because we are maintaining the price of rice supplied to Travancore-Cochin at Rs. 17 per maund issue price. So whether the rice is worth Rs. 24 per maund, or Rs. 16 per maund, we maintain the price of Rs. 17 per maund and meet the difference as subsidy. So the question of price does not arise in the case of Travancore-Cochin.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that owing to the acute position of unemployment, the poor people are unable to buy their ration on account of the high price?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The offtake has not decreased in Travancore-Cochin, Sir. It is increasing and they want more rice.

Shri A. M. Thomas: May I enquire whether the Central Government have got any idea with regard to the requirements of Travancore-Cochin for the next year and may I also enquire whether there is any idea of increasing the present ration from 6 oz. to 8 oz.?

Shri Kidwai: Every year, we used to supply Travancore-Cochin 3 lakh tons. This year we supplied more. Besides, the original ration quota of rice for Travancore-Cochin was 4½ oz., and it was raised last year to 6 oz. This year, besides these 6 oz. we have already agreed to supply 2 oz. more in the economic shops at the price at which the State Government is purchasing. I hope this will continue and it may be increased to 3 oz. next year.

RANGIYA-RANGAPARA LINE

***1169. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state when the Rangiya-Rangapara line was opened?

(b) Is it a fact that the line has not been sufficiently ballasted and the bridges are not strong enough to bear the heavier types of engines running on main lines?

(c) In view of the promise of Government to start the North Bank Express from Tezpur to Manibarighat from April 1954, have the ballasting and the reinforcing of the bridges on the line been undertaken?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) This Section was opened as indicated below:—

- (i) Rangiya to Tangla on 1st March, 1912.
- (ii) Tangla to Majbat on 1st December, 1932.
- (iii) Majbat to Rangapara North 7th February, 1933.

(b) No, Sir. It was constructed to Standard 'C', which is the standard adopted for light lines, which are neither built nor worked to main line standards.

(c) Rebuilding of certain pile bridges has already been taken in hand and the question of ballasting the track is under examination.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that during part of the journey, the train travels at a speed of 5 miles per hour and over the rest at 15 miles per hour?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: As I said, Sir, this line was constructed to standard 'C' where the trains are not expected to go very fast.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is there any programme for ballasting this line by removing the split sleepers and replacing them by main line sleepers?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: The matter is under consideration.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: How long will it take?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Not very long, I hope.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact....

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next question.

MADRAS PORT

***1170. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fresh allotment of funds has been made for the expansion of the dock in Madras; and

(b) what are the details of the work for which this allotment has been made?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Certain proposals of the Madras Port Trust for the expansion of the dock facilities in the port have been sanctioned by Government. A provision of Rs. 45 lakhs has been made in the Central Government's budget for the current year for grant of loans to the port in this connection.

(b) A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 27.]

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, whether Government have taken notice of the objections raised by prominent persons of Madras City about the serious problem of silting of sand in the harbour, and also that the expansion of the harbour will further endanger the position?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, as for the sand bar that is obstructing the channel to the harbour, it is being dredged and is being tackled continuously. By the expansion of the harbour, the sand menace will not be more. There is no such fear. But this expansion will certainly increase the port facilities a great deal.

Shri Muniswamy: May I know, Sir, how are ports classified into major and minor ones?

Mr. Speaker: I think it is a question which does not arise out of this.

W. P. LOCOMOTIVES

***1171. Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of W. P. locomotives purchased so far;

(b) the average cost of each W. P. locomotive;

(c) how many of these locomotives, if any, have been laid off duty; and

(d) the reasons for laying off these locomotives?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 316.

(b) Rs. 4·89 lakhs.

(c) None at present except those undergoing normal workshop and shed repairs.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Frank Anthony: May I know what is the normal expectation of the life of a W.P. engine?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, it is roughly 40 years.

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN MADRAS

***1172. Shri Kakkan:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether the Government of India have received any minor irrigation schemes from the Madras Government after Andhra formation?

(b) What amount has been given as aid for those schemes?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Kakkan: In view of the fact that the Madras State is a deficit one, may I know whether the Government of India will consider giving it more financial aid for minor irrigation works?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is the reason why we have given Madras Rs. 1,38,85,565 loan last year and about Rs. 6,49,736 grant, also last year. Now, after separation, they have submitted schemes on an agreed basis between Andhra and the residuary state of Madras. Now we have written to the Madras Government to submit proposals for the next year—*i.e.* Andhra separate and the residuary Madras State separate.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan: Have Government proposals before them to utilise the flows in South Pennar river under schemes known as Sathanur and Krishnagiri projects?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: I do not know, Sir, whether this is included in the existing grants that we are giving to Madras. I do not know whether they have submitted that scheme. For that, I require notice.

Shri Muniswamy: Arising out of the answer given by the Minister to this question, may I know the total amount that is under consideration to be allotted to Madras State for these minor irrigation schemes?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: In my reply I have stated that we have given to Madras Rs. 1·38 lakhs last year as loan. If you mean for next year, an equal amount you will get. Much depends upon the nature of the schemes they submit to the Centre. We want to help Madras as far as possible.

Shri N. M. Lingam: In view of the fact that the Madras Government has no major irrigation plans for the second Five Year Plan, will Government consider sympathetically the schemes of the Madras Government for minor irrigation facilities?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: The Centre is always sympathetic to Madras.

GUNTUR RAILWAY STATION

*1173. **Shri S. V. L. Narasimham:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken on the question of widening the subways under the Railway lines on the East of the Eastern Cabin of Guntur Railway Station, so as to provide for two way traffic; and

(b) when the work will commence?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to widen two bridges, one on the Guntakal-Bezwada Metre Gauge Line and the other on the Guntur-Tenali Broad Gauge Line, near Guntur Railway station.

(b) After the Municipality communicate their approval to the plans and estimate and deposit their share of the estimated cost.

ACCIDENTS AT SONEPUR RAILWAY STATION

*1174. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of accidents take place every year at Sonepur Railway Station on the North Eastern Railway;

(b) the number of persons who died or received serious injury while crossing the Railway yard at Sonepur in 1952 and 1953 (upto October); and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The number of accidents which occurred at Sonepur Railway Station was 20 in 1952 and 15 in 1953 (upto 31st October).

(b) Three died in 1952 and two in 1953 (upto 31st October). No one was seriously injured.

(c) The casualties, referred to in the reply to part (b), occurred as a result of trespass. The Railway Administration has been asked to determine, in consultation with local civil authorities, ways and means to eliminate trespassing.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Are Government aware that there is no other way to the south from the railway station and people have to cross the railway line?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We have a proposal to put up a foot-over-bridge and that is under consideration. When the situation promises, we will construct the foot over-bridge.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: How long will it take to put up the over-bridge there?

Mr. Speaker: He said a foot over-bridge.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: He said that a foot over-bridge is under consideration. How long will it take to put up that?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: So far no definite date has been fixed. As soon as our financial situation improves, we will put it up.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Is it a fact that a relation of some of the railway officials working at the Sonepur station was also involved in this incident?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Sir, the relatives of railway employees are not immune from railway accidents.

Mr. Speaker: The point seems to be this. The hon. Minister replied that there were trespassers. The point is whether the relations of railway officials were considered as trespassers.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: A young boy who was the son of the station master, was walking carelessly on the railway track and he was run over.

RAILWAY HIGH SCHOOL AT KHARGPUR

***1177. Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempts have been made to upgrade the Railway Indian High School at Khargpur (Eastern Railway) to the status of an Intermediate College;

(b) if so, what preliminary steps have been taken;

(c) how much sum has been provisionally sanctioned for this purpose for the year 1953-54;

(d) whether any extension of the school building is contemplated for the college; and

(e) the estimate of expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

(c) Nil.

(d) and (e). The details have not yet been worked out.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know, Sir, whether this college will be turned into a full-fledged Arts and Science College?

Shri Alagesan: Sir, the whole matter is under consideration. The hon. Member was with me when I visited the school and representations were made that the status should be upgraded to that of an Intermediate College. It is under consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I want to know whether this proposal will find a place in the next budget.

Shri Alagesan: I cannot say just now. That is under consideration yet.

HOMOEOPATHY

***1178. Shri S. C. Samanta:** (a) Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state the steps taken up to date to upgrade the training and research of Homoeopathic system of treatment?

(b) What are the causes of the slowness in implementing the decisions of the Health Ministers' Conference about Homoeopathy?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to expedite the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 28.]

Shri S. C. Samanta: Sir, from the statement I find that it took 1½ years for the Medical Council of India to come to a decision, which was not unanimous. The question was again referred to the Central Council of Health. They did not come to any conclusion. That has been postponed to February 1954. May I know, how long will the Government take in dealing with this in coming to a decision on the matter? May I also know whether Government have any intention to establish any Council containing scientists and doctors only?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Sir, the Central Council of Health consists of members or Ministers of the States and advisers also attend the meeting. In the Council, last year no decision was taken. That is why the matter is referred to the next meeting and I hope a firm decision will be taken at the next meeting.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Out of the 5 recommendations of the Planning Commission, there are 3, which can be taken up by the Government without any further consultation. May I know whether Government has done anything in the matter of drug manufacture, the Homoeopathic Council, the establishment of a Central Council of Medicine and facilities for research?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: Sir, an *Ad hoc* Committee was constituted and they went into the recommendations of the Planning Commission. They recommended certain things on points that have been recommended by the Planning Commission. These are under the consideration of the

Government of India and it will be decided in a short time.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact, Sir, that our country needs medical men very acutely? It is for this reason that the indigenous systems of medicine and the Homoeopathic system of medicine are being taken up by the Government. May I know what immediate steps Government will take to produce medical men from these two systems of medicine?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: All possible means are being taken up, Sir.

SINGARENI COLLIERIES

***1179. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the causes for the fatal accidents at inclines Nos. 3 and 4 of Singareni Collieries Company, Kothagudium on the 9th and 15th October, 1953 respectively;

(b) the number of fatal accidents in Singareni group of mines during the year 1952 and from 1st January to 15th November, 1953;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted; and

(d) if so, what are the findings?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) No fatal accident occurred at Kothagudium colliery on the 15th October 1953. There were two fatal accidents on the 9th and the 14th October which were due to fall of coal from the sides of pillars in close proximity to depillaring areas.

(b) 20 in 1952. 8 from 1st January to 15th November 1953.

(c) and (d). Yes. The Inspecting Officer has recorded both the accidents as cases of misadventure as the inquiry revealed that there was no negligence and no person could be held responsible for them.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if the inspection was carried out by the Inspector himself by visiting the place of accident or on the surface with the aid of the map?

Shri V. V. Giri: The inspecting officer did visit the place of accident.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know if the area of accident was fenced off till the inspection was over?

Shri V. V. Giri: It must be so; but, I have not got definite information with me here.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know, whether, in view of the fact that during the last 3 months accidents have been increasing in Kothagudium, do Government propose to appoint a Court of Inquiry to inquire into these accidents?

Shri V. V. Giri: I do not think it necessary. They are taking great care about these matters.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when the Expert Committee contemplated to inquire into these accidents will be set up?

Shri V. V. Giri: I think the officers of the Kolar Gold-fields, the Engineers, are going into this matter and we expect a report from them. Afterwards we shall take such action as is necessary.

आयुर्वेदिक गवेषणा केन्द्र

***११८०. श्री बादशाह गुप्त :** क्या स्वास्थ्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगी कि आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सा सम्बन्धी सरकारी सहायता-प्राप्त कितने गवेषणा केन्द्र तथा प्रयोगशालायें हैं और प्रत्येक को कितनी धन राशि मिलती है ?

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): A statement is laid on the Table showing the number of research centres and laboratories that receive aid from the Central Government. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 29.]

Shri Badshah Gupta: May I know, Sir, if any of these research centres and laboratories are wholly run at Government expense?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I do not know, Sir. In West Bengal, Orissa, Bombay, Madhya Bharat and Delhi there are some centres which are meant for research work and they are given Government aid, but I do not know whether they are mainly run by Government.

Shri Badshah Gupta: What are the results achieved as the result of experiments made so far?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I would require notice for the question.

Shri Kelappan: May I know, Sir, if any Ayurvedic hospitals are attached to these centres?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I do not know for certain, but most probably there will be some hospitals attached to the centres where research is being done.

Shri Kelappan: Is it in the contemplation of Government to start centres in Malabar, which has a unique system and where Ayurvedic treatment is highly developed?

Shrimati Chandrasekhar: I have no information.

COMMUNICATIONS IN SAURASHTRA

***1182. Dr. J. N. Parekh:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether there is any plan to extend telegraph or telephone communications in Saurashtra?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): Nine out of 13 important exchanges in Saurashtra have already been rehabilitated. The remaining four exchanges will be rehabilitated shortly and given trunk facilities. Extension of telegraph and telephone facilities will also be taken up wherever justified.

Dr. J. N. Parekh: May I know, Sir, when important industrial and commercial cities like Jamnagar and Morvi, which have so far only public call office will be given trunk connections to individual subscribers?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, Sir, they will be soon rehabilitated.

Dr. J. N. Parekh: May I know the policy of the Government about existing village telephones in Saurashtra?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Various small States have merged in Saurashtra and they had for their administrative purposes a single-line telephone system, which functioned for small distances and they cannot function for longer distances. We have at present handed over those rural exchanges to the Saurashtra Government and they are maintaining it. The extra expenditure incurred thereon is to be met by them. I do not think it will be possible for us to take all those rural exchanges which were more than 60 in number.

DIBRUGARH RAILWAY WORKSHOP

***1185. Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some costly machineries have been removed from Dibrugarh Railway Workshop and if so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Minister during his recent visit to Assam assured that the Dibrugarh Workshop will be steadily developed?

(c) If so, what steps are being taken?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes. This is an adjustment necessary to utilise this equipment to the best advantage for the North Eastern Railway as a whole and in this chain of arrangements it is proposed to instal other machines at Dibrugarh.

(b) The Railway Minister's assurance regarding Dibrugarh Workshop referred to the permanency of this installation, its further development as and when required by the Railway, and the improvement of the existing facilities for training trade apprentices.

(c) Some expansion of the training facilities is being planned. Other developments will be progressed as and when found necessary.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Have the Government drawn up any scheme and a target fixed for the development of the workshop?

Shri Alagesan: There are certain plans, as I said, with regard to training facilities for trade apprentices.

Shri Beli Ram Das: Is it a fact that some of these machineries removed from Dibrugarh Railway Workshop were new ones and in perfect order and that there was necessity for these at that workshop? If so, why did Government remove them?

Shri Alagesan: In fact, these particular machines—two or three in number—were installed in the Dibrugarh Railway Workshop temporarily. They were intended to be removed to Gorakhpur as soon as accommodation became available. When accommodation became available at Gorakhpur, they were so removed.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that representations were made to the Minister and he wired to stop despatch but the machines were transported from Dibrugarh all the same?

Shri Alagesan: No, Sir. A representation was made to the Minister, but it was too late for the Minister to intervene as the machinery was already despatched.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that many student graduates entered that workshop to have higher training, but the removal of these machineries deprived them of the facilities of higher training?

Shri Alagesan: No. Sir. The hon. Member is misinformed.

KATHMANDU-DELHI TELEGRAPH LINE

***1186. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a direct wireless telegraphic line is going to be established between New Delhi and Kathmandu:

(b) whether the line will be operated by the personnel of Nepal Government or by the Indian Post and Telegraph Service; and

(c) the cost of such construction?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) This direct link has already been established with effect from 1st December 1953.

(b) The personnel of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department already stationed at these two stations are working the new service—*viz*, 'Kathmandu—New Delhi'.

(c) No extra cost for any construction is involved as the existing equipments with minor adjustments have been used.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that the Government of India has taken the responsibility of further developing the postal communications in Nepal?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: If they require any technical advice; we have agreed to give them.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is it a fact that some officers of the Government of India have been sent to Nepal for giving these development facilities?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: I think one or two officers are there.

INJURIES TO RAILWAY STAFF

***1187. Shri Frank Anthony:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state in how many cases have trains been held up by unruly mobs and students within the last six months?

(b) In how many cases have the railway staff been injured?

(c) What steps are Government taking to give protection to the railway staff?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) In 426 cases.

(b) In 10 cases.

(c) Railway Protection Police, Government Railway Police or Armed Police Guards are provided on trains as necessary, when trouble is apprehended.

Shri Frank Anthony: Is it a fact that even where police protection has been provided, railway staff have been injured and that there have been cases where they continue to be injured in spite of these police protection squads?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: It is rather a difficult problem for the Railways to tackle, because demonstrations or hold-ups of railway trains are mainly a law and order problem and they are not purely a Railway problem. Irrespective of the fact that there may be some policemen to protect the railway staff, the mobs may be so great that even these small protection parties may be unable to give them much protection.

PAYMENT OF DUES TO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

***1188. Shri Frank Anthony:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway employees who retire are kept waiting for a long time before they are paid their dues; and

(b) whether Government have considered the question of fixing a time limit for the payment of all dues to retired railway employees?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The payment of settlement dues to employees who have quitted service is arranged only after completion of certain preliminaries like verification of service, realisation of dues outstanding to Government, vacation of quarters, production of succession certificate in case of deceased employees etc. Where these preliminaries take time for any reason payment is delayed. A special drive has been launched on Railways to expedite the payment of settlement dues.

(b) Under the present orders retiring employees proceeding on leave preparatory to retirement can withdraw in some cases upto 90 per cent. of their Provident Fund accumulations and the balance is payable to them within two months of their finally quitting service. Notwithstanding this there have been cases of delay in payment but every effort is made to arrange payment without delay.

Shri Frank Anthony: Is it not a fact that there is a large number of cases where employees, after having retired, for a period of even from three to nine years, have still not received their Provident Fund dues?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: This may be true in a certain number of cases, but it was so for reasons beyond our control, because most of these cases concerned employees who have been transferred from territories which have now fallen in Pakistan, and certain very important information which is necessary for the settlement of dues is not forthcoming.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I know, Sir, if people—not from Pakistan but from India—have to wait for nine years before they are paid?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Not without very good reasons. There must have been very good reasons, but if the hon. Member would bring any specific cases to the notice of the Ministry, we will take them up.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know if the particulars are not forthcoming from Pakistan, is any time-limit fixed by the Government to settle the issues?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: We cannot issue any directive to the Pakistan Government.

Mr. Speaker: The point is that the Pakistan Government may not give any particulars, and so, whether Government have not fixed any time-limit to settle the claims within a set period for the benefit of the employees.

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: I require notice, Sir.

Shri Frank Anthony: Will the Government be prepared to lay on the Table a statement of the number of cases which have not been settled for a period of three years?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: Yes; if the hon. Member so desires, it would be done.

Shri Dabhi: May I know if it is not a fact that I brought to the notice of the hon. Minister the case of an employee, in whose case all these preliminaries have been completed, and still,—in that case—the employee has not received payment yet?

Shri Shahnawaz Khan: In that case, the hon. Member can rest assured that the matter will be settled very soon.

उत्तर प्रदेश में पटसन का उत्पादन

***११८९. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री तह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पटसन के गुण-प्रकार सम्बन्धी विशेषज्ञ समिति की रिपोर्ट म उत्तर प्रदेश में उत्पादित पटसन को निम्न श्रेणी का बताया गया है ; तथा

(ख) यदि हां, तो उत्तर प्रदेश के पटसन को अच्छी किस्म का बनाने के लिए सरकार का क्या योजना करने का विचार है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Expert Committee on the Quality of Jute has stated in its report that while some parts of Uttar Pradesh produce good jute, the general quality of Uttar Pradesh jute, as rated by the jute mills, appears to be poor.

(b) For the improvement of the quality of jute in U.P., the Government of India have suggested to the State Government schemes for the excavation of 320 retting tanks and setting up of a farm for producing improved jute seed for distribution to the cultivators. The U.P. Government have also been asked to popularise the use of fertilisers and of seed-drills and wheel-hoes for sowing and cultural operations. They have also been asked to organise the plant protection measures.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस में सन के उत्पादन के वास्ते हमारी सरकार क्या पग उठा रही है ?

श्री किदवई : यह सवाल तो जूट के बारे में था ।

PLANTATIONS LABOUR ACT

***1190. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tea prices have improved considerably;

(b) if so, whether the Plantations Labour Act, 1951 will be implemented now; and

(c) if so, the probable date of its implementation?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) During the current year tea prices have improved as compared to the prices which obtained during 1952.

(b) and (c). A meeting of the tripartite Plantations Committee is being called shortly to consider, *inter alia*, the question of implementation of the Plantations Labour Act, 1951. Further action in that connection will be taken in the light of the Committee's recommendations.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know, Sir, if the Act which was passed by this House is dependent upon the sweet will of the employers who would have to come together in a conference so that it may be implemented?

Shri V. V. Giri: No, Sir.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that since April last the tea prices have been rocketing so much that 80 per cent. of the tea gardens made profit from last year's crop, *i.e.*, 1952, which was the crisis year?

Shri V. V. Giri: Government is anxious to have the implementation of this thing.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: How are we to understand that anxiety? Will they have it done earlier?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have nothing to say except that the Government is actively looking into the matter.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know whether the Government admits that the delay in the implementation of the Plantations Labour Act is due to the slump in the prices?

Shri V. V. Giri: Yes, Sir.

Shri Venkataraman: May I know, Sir, whether it is open to the Government, by executive action, to delay the implementation of this Act which was passed after taking into consideration all the actual circumstances?

Shri V. V. Giri: Rules have to be framed. They have not been framed yet. Therefore, there is delay in the implementation: especially on account of the fact that there was a depression and a team was sent to study the question. All these things delayed the whole matter and now we are dealing with the situation.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know what is the machinery they have in the Labour Department to implement the decision passed by this House—especially about the Plantations Labour Act?

Shri V. V. Giri: I have already stated the reasons why it could not be done.

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ACT

***1191. Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state whether Government have decided to set up regional committees to supervise the work in connection with the Employees' Provident Fund Act?

(b) If so, what would be the functions of these committees?

(c) Has the regional committee for Bihar been set up?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes. Regional Committees have been formed in the States of Bihar, Bombay, Madras, Madhya Bharat, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) The function of these Committees is to advise the Central Board on such matters as the Central Board may refer to them.

(c) Yes.

Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha: May I know whether the Bihar Members have been selected and, how they were selected?

Shri V. V. Giri: Shri R. S. Hegde, I.A.S., Secretary to Government Bihar, Chairman, Shri B. P. Singh, Shri H. Prasad, Shri R. S. Modi, Shri H. D. Vishnu, Shri K. D. Phillip, Shri Biswan Singh, Shri Biren Roy and Shri M. John.

CIVIL AVIATION DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

***1192. Shri Vallatharas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether the class IV employees of the Civil Aviation Department have specified hours of work and weekly off-day?

(b) Is there any proposal to reduce the hours of work from 12 hours to 8 hours a day in regard to the said employees?

(c) Are these employees having the benefit of the General Provident Fund Scheme?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Except in the case of certain Chowkidars employed in the Civil Aviation Department, all other class IV employees are working to normal office hours and get a weekly day off. Chowkidars are normally employed on 8 hours active duty but in some cases they are required to be on duty upto 12 hours a day according to operational exigencies, but in all such cases residential accommodation has been provided near the place of duty and the duty implies only their presence at the premises; it does not impose any proportionate strain. However, the question of bringing them in line with other class IV employees is under consideration.

(c) The question of extending this benefit to the class IV employees of the Civil Aviation Department is under consideration.

Shri Vallatharas: Has there been any representation from the Civil Aviation Department Employees' Union that a committee may be appointed to enquire into the conditions of the Class IV employees?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There might have been, but Government thinks that there is no necessity for appointing a committee.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Is it a fact that class IV employees in the Posts and Telegraphs have been given advantages of the General Provident Fund Scheme, and it has not been applied to the Civil Aviation Department? If so, why?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is only the class IV employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who have been entitled to contribute to the provident fund. The question of other class IV employees, including of course the Civil Aviation Department, is still under consideration.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is not my question. My question is: it has been given in the case of the Posts and Telegraphs Department while in the same Ministry, it has been refused to the Civil Aviation Department. My question is: what is the reason for making this discrimination in the case of the same Ministry and in the same category?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: There is no question of discrimination. The question of the Posts and Telegraphs Department was taken up and it has been decided. The question of all other class IV employees, either under the Ministry of Communications or in the other Ministries, is under examination.

SUGAR PRICES

***1193. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of sugar in the months of October and November, 1953 have gone up; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to check the rise?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Average prices of sugar in October, 1953 were comparatively lower than those in September 1953. In November, they had displayed some rise but they have come down again.

(b) To check any undue rise in prices, it was decided to import a large quantity of sugar, and the entire quantity of sugar produced by mills in India upto 15th December, 1953 was also released for sale in the free market.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : क्या बाहर से चीनी मंगाने से देश के चीनी व्यवसाय का नाश नहीं हो जायेगा ?

खाद्य तथा कृषि उपमंत्री (श्री एम० वी० कृष्णप्पा) : नहीं होगा ।

Mr. Speaker: The Question-hour is over.

Short Notice Question and Answer

CRACK IN HIRAKUD DAM

S.N.Q. 8. Shri Lokenath Mishra: (a) Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news in "Blitz" dated the

12th December, 1953 under the caption "Crack in 30 crore Hirakud Dam'?

(b) Is it a fact that the foundation of the dam has been discovered to be defective as the rocks underneath were not properly grouted and that as a result water has started percolating under the Dam?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. But during the process of clearing the foundation, it was found necessary to blast some area which was not covered by concrete during the last working season, and in which certain fissures and seams were noticed. They are being treated by the usual methods of foundation treatment; in some cases by blasting away the rock to get down to good rock and in other cases by cleansing, drilling and grouting. No concrete was blasted but some had to be removed as a result of blasting in the neighbourhood. These foundation problems are amenable to treatment.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: When did this fact that there was some defect which was being treated come to the notice of Government?

Shri Hathi: There was no defect in fact. The information that the rock was soft and permeable was in the knowledge of Government as far back as April 1952 and for this purpose Dr. Savage, the world authority was consulted as to how the rock should be treated.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: Is it not a fact that only Engineer Ayyangar brought this to the notice of the Hirakud Control Board at their last meeting, and before that Government did not know about it?

Shri Hathi: No, Sir. As I said, there was no defect in construction at all. The fact that the rock was a soft one was within the knowledge of the engineers there. So it was not any defect brought to the notice of the Board by the present Engineer. What he did was blasting the rock that was soft.

Shri Meghnad Saha: Is there any arrangement at Hirakud for the testing of the concrete both physically and chemically, or is it being done in a haphazard manner?

Shri Hathi: There are arrangements for testing the concrete. But here the question is not one of testing the concrete, but of getting solid rock before concreting was done.

Shri Meghnad Saha: The question was about cracks in the concrete. They are due generally to action of water on the concrete. So, in the early stages the concrete has to be tested very carefully, both physically and chemically. Was that done at all?

Shri Hathi: The concrete is being tested physically as well as chemically. But here there was no crack in the concrete itself.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: Did Mr. Ayyangar give any report to the Control Board at all?

Shri Hathi: Yes, Mr. Ayyangar has submitted a report.

Shri Lokenath Mishra: Will Government be pleased to place it on the Table of the House?

Shri Hathi: I have not a copy of the report with me but I can quote him from another document to show what he thinks about it. I shall read it for the information of the House.

> "Such fissures existed at Mettur, at Tungabhadra and in Hirakud in portions already treated. These are all amenable to proper treatment by removal of the bad ones and grouting those that can be made innocuous by such grouting. This is being done and construction work is proceeding apace.
>
> Nothing unusual or difficult to tackle is there and the progress

or programme of work will not be affected."

This is what he says.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MILK-POWDER PRODUCTION PLANT

*1151. **Shri Radha Raman:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a U.N. International Children's Emergency Fund has sanctioned some amount for the provision of a small milk-powder production plant in India?

(b) What is the amount sanctioned?

(c) Where is this plant to be established?

(d) How much milk-powder is expected to be produced per day?

(e) Is some technical help also being provided regarding the installation of this plant?

(f) Will this milk-powder be distributed free of charge?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). UNICEF has allocated $225,000 for supplies and equipment for a Milk Conservation Plant in Bombay State. It is the joint intention of UNICEF and the Government to erect at Anand as an extension to a proposed new Dairy, a milk pasteurising and by-products plant with a spray drier for producing milk powder; and to establish adjacent to a railway siding in the City of Bombay a new cold store for bottling milk.

(d) Dry milk can only be produced in the flush season (October to March) when surplus milk is available. The Drying Plant will have a feed-rate of 2,500 litres per hour of skim milk, 9 per cent. solids yielding 270 Kgms. per hour of powder (dry basis).

(e) Yes.

(f) Besides the existing schemes for free milk distribution in Bombay, the State Government is expected to distribute free of charge milk to children and mothers upto the value of 1½ times the UNICEF contribution. This distribution will be extended over five years.

ROAD-RAIL COMPETITION

*1154. **Shri Tulsidas:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some wasteful competition exists between the State-owned Roadways and Railways?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Reports from railways indicate that there is some wasteful competition between state-owned road undertakings and the railways in some States.

(b) For better co-ordination of rail and road transport a Code of Principles and Practice in the Regulation of Road Transport has been devised. Further special steps for the elimination of wasteful competition include:

(i) Acquisition of financial interest by railways in the state-owned road transport organizations.

(ii) Representation of railways on the Board of Management of these organizations.

(iii) Formation of standing Advisory Committees composed of the representatives of the State Governments and the railways in the context of passenger transport.

RE-GROUPING OF RAILWAYS

*1155. **Shri Tulsidas:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in the re-grouping of the Railways;

(b) how far re-grouping has helped to remove transhipment bottlenecks at the broad gauge and metre gauge terminals; and

(c) whether, in view of the experience gained, Government propose to make any changes in the existing zonal areas of the Indian Railways?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) The re-grouping of Indian Railways was completed with the formation of the Northern, North Eastern and Eastern Zones on 14th April, 1952.

(b) Detailed information is being collected and will be placed before the House during the Budget Session.

(c) No such proposal is, at present, under consideration.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

***1156. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state the number of employees of the Telegraph Department against whom disciplinary action was taken in 1952-53?

(b) How many of such employees, if any, have been dismissed or suspended under Safeguarding of National Security Rules (1949) during the above period?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) 2,092.

(b) Under the Safeguarding of National Security Rules, 1949, no employee is 'dismissed' or 'suspended'. During 1952-53, one official was retired compulsorily under those rules and three employees were asked to proceed on leave pending completion of proceedings.

DYSENTERY IN MALABAR

***1157. Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India sent any medical officer to investigate the causes of incidence and spread of a type of dysentery in Malabar;

(b) whether any report has been received from him; and

(c) if so, what are his findings and whether Government have taken any steps in the matter?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) and (b). An officer of the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, who was asked to investigate the matter on the spot has submitted a report.

(c) According to the report, the main cause of ill-health in Malabar was malnutrition leading to nutritional Oedema with bowel infections superimposed, largely owing to a deficiency of calories and proteins and B-complex vitamins. Children in the age group—1 to 5 years—were the most affected and almost all the fatal cases were among this group. There were a few cases of dysentery mainly in the older age groups. These cases, however, ran a mild course and there was no mortality among them.

The Government of Madras took prompt action to control the disease by disinfection of water supplies, treatment of cases with sulphaguanidine tablets and distribution of milk powder. The State Government also organised and put into the field a mobile medical unit with necessary staff, equipment and medicines to deal with the situation in the affected areas. Steps were also taken to hospitalise severe cases of nutritional oedema. At the request of the State Government, the Government of India supplied free of cost 250,000 lbs. of skim milk powder, 100,000 tablets of sulphaguanidine and 100,000 multi-vitamin tablets for distribution in the affected area.

SUBSIDISED HOUSING SCHEME FOR MICA WORKERS

***1158. Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 940 asked on the 7th April, 1953 and state the progress made in introducing a Subsidised Housing Scheme which was under consideration for the mica workers in Nellore district?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): A scheme for the construction of houses by mine owners on payment of a subsidy equal to 20 per cent. of the cost of construction subject to a ceiling limit of Rs. 280 per house was circulated to the owners. They have raised some difficulties and the question of overcoming these difficulties is under consideration.

POSTAL SERVICES IN HYDERABAD

***1167. Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India had given an assurance at the time of integration of postal services of Hyderabad State with those of the Indian Union that the equipment which belonged to former Hyderabad State and which was being removed for some immediate use at Bombay would be made available to Hyderabad as soon as the building for that purpose was got ready;

(b) by what time the building for Saifabad Exchange became ready; and

(c) the extent of the delay to get the machinery for installation and the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) The auto-exchange equipment for Saifabad and Secunderabad was received more than a year after integration. As such, there can be no question of giving an assurance at the time of integration. However, when part of the equipment was being removed to Bombay for immediate use, it was made known that the equipment would be installed, when the buildings were ready. The part of the equipment, which is available at Hyderabad, cannot be installed at Saifabad on account of technical difficulties and will be installed at Secunderabad as soon as the building is ready. The equipment for Saifabad, where the building is ready and electric installation is in progress, is expected in March, 1954.

(b) The building for the Saifabad Telephone Exchange was completed in April, 1953 and electric installation is in progress.

(c) Equipment on the repeat order for 1,400 lines is expected in March, 1954. There has been no delay in manufacture of the equipment.

MICA MINES

***1175. Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mica mines closed in Andhra during the period 1951—53;

(b) the number of labourers thrown out of employment on account of the closure of the mica mines; and

(c) what steps have been taken to give employment to the mica labourers so thrown out of employment?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 30.]

JUNIOR INSPECTOR OF MINES

***1176. Shri Veeraswamy:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Junior Inspectors of Mines so far employed and what are their qualifications and functions; and

(b) whether they have undergone any training in Engineering and mining?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) There are at present 10 Junior Inspectors of Mines. All of them are Mining Engineers and, excepting one, are holders of First Class Colliery Manager's Certificate of Competency issued under the Indian Coal Mines Regulations 1926. Their functions are inspection of all mines for the enforcement of the Mines Act, 1952, and the regulations, rules, byelaws and orders made thereunder.

(b) Yes.

METTUR MILL WORKERS UNION, SALEM

***1181. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation was made by the Mettur Mill Workers

Union, Salem, Madras with reference to the hardships felt by the workers on account of the present provisions of the Factories Act; and

(b) the action taken thereon?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Yes. A representation was received from the Union last month to the effect that the management had refused leave with wages on the plea that there was a break in the 'continuous service' of the workers as they were involuntarily unemployed for a period exceeding 30 days on account of power cut and that therefore provisions of the Act should be amended to cover such cases.

(b) The Union has been informed that a Bill to amend the leave with wages provisions and also certain other provisions of the Factories Act has been introduced in the Council of States on the 3rd September, 1953.

FRUIT PRESERVATION

***1183. Shri S. C. Deb:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme regarding the scope and prospects of fruit preservation in the State of Assam is under consideration;

(b) if so, what are the features of the Scheme; and

(c) how many units for Juice extraction are to be opened and at what places?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes.

(b) The scheme envisages the establishment of some juice extraction units in the fruit orchard areas and a Central Fruit Preservation factory at Gauhati.

(c) About 6 units. Their location has not yet been determined.

विशाखापतनम का ड्राई डाक

***११८४. श्री रघुनाथ सिह :** क्या यातायात मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) भारत में कितने ड्राई डाक हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार का ध्यान स्टीमशिप ओनर्स एसोसिएशन के शिप्पिग जरनल के १ सितम्बर, १९५३ के अंक में प्रकाशित हुए हिन्दुस्तान शिपयार्ड के सभापति के उस वक्तव्य की ओर गया है जिस में उन्हों ने यह सुझाव दिया था कि विशाखापतनम में एक ड्राई डाक बनाना अत्यावश्यक है; तथा

(ग) इस मामले में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार कर रही है?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) They are all told 15 dry docks owned by the various port authorities in India. Of these two in Calcutta and two in Bombay are of adequate size to accommodate large ocean-going vessels and the rest are small and meant for comparatively smaller craft owned by the ports.

(b) Yes.

(c) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

RENT OF BARRACK-TYPE QUARTERS

***1194. Shri Ganpati Ram:** (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government provide barrack-type quarters at concession rates to Posts and Telegraphs employees?

(b) if so, will similar facilities be provided to civil aviation employees?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have decided to reduce the rate of rent of such wartime quarters to 5 per cent. of the pay?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes, in those cases where the standard and quality of accommodation are very much lower than that normally prescribed.

(b) and (c). The standard of accommodation allotted to Civil Aviation employees is distinctly higher than that of the premises referred to in part (a) of the question. Even so, the question of recovering rent for barrack-type accommodation allotted to Civil Aviation employees, at the rate of 5 per cent. of their emoluments or the standard rent calculated on an average cost of construction estimated at Rs. 2 per sq. ft., whichever is lower, is under the consideration of Government.

LADY HARDINGE HOSPITAL

***1195. Sardar Lal Singh:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether the Deep Therapy Plant which was bought by the Lady Hardinge Hospital has been working satisfactorily?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): The answer is in the affirmative.

EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION

***1196. Shri K. P. Tripathi:** (a) Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it has been decided that the Employees' State Insurance Corporation will spend Rs. 220 lacs for building hospitals and specialist centres for the insured?

(b) Out of what funds will this expenditure be met?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) The Employees' State Insurance Corporation has generally agreed that where the existing hospital beds are not enough to meet the requirements of insured persons under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, arrangements should be made for providing sufficient number of beds either by constructing independent hospitals or annexes to existing hospitals. To enable a final decision to be taken in the matter, it is proposed to conduct a survey to find out the existing facilities for indoor treatment including those for T.B. patients available in all industrial centres in different States of the country. The capital cost will depend on the results of the survey.

(b) Any expenditure the Corporation has to incur will be met from the Employees' State Insurance Fund.

BHADRACHELLAM ROAD-PENUGADUPA RAILWAY LINE

***1197. Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** (a) Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether any representation has been received by the General Manager, Central Railway from the Singareni Collieries Company requesting him to take up the extension of Railway line from Bhadrachellam Road to Penugadupa in 1954?

(b) If so, what action has been taken?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Company's approval to the lay-out plan has just been received and an engineering survey for the siding is being undertaken. As soon as this survey is finalized, an estimate would be prepared and the work will be taken in hand after getting the estimate sanctioned by the competent authority.

LOCOMOTIVES

***1198. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Railway engines are likely to be had under foreign aid programmes; and

(b) if so, how many and when?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) 120 locos from Canada under the Colombo Plan to be delivered by December 1955. In addition, procurement of some locomotives under the

Technical Co-operation Aid Programme of the U.S.A. is also under negotiation.

POST OFFICE FOR BUDALAPURAM

***1199. Shri M. D. Ramasami:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a public request for opening of a post office in Budalapuram in Tinnevelly District (Madras State) has been received;

(b) if so, whether the request has been investigated; and

(c) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The question of opening a Post Office at Budalapuram is still under examination and it is hoped that the Post Office would be opened during the current financial year.

ROAD-BRIDGES OVER RIVER GODAVARI

***1200. Shri B. S. Murthy:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the estimates for the road-bridges on the National Highway on the two branches of the River Godavari have been completed; and

(b) if so, the date on which the work will commence and when it will be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Plans and estimates for the bridge over the Gautami branch are nearing completion. As regards the bridge over the Vasishta branch, field investigations for the preparation of plans and estimates are in progress.

(b) Work on the Gautami bridge is expected to commence early in 1954, while that on the Vasishta is expected to commence by the end of 1954. It will take three to four years to complete the two bridges.

SMUGGLING OF CATTLE INTO GOA

***1201. Shri U. M. Trivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that thousands of cattle are being smuggled into Goa from India?

(b) Have Government taken any steps in the matter and if not, why?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) In 1951 the Government of Bombay reported that smuggling of cattle to Goa on a large scale was taking place but there have been no recent reports to that effect.

(b) Measures are being taken to introduce legislation to check such smuggling.

WAITING ROOM AT FORBESGANJ

***1202. Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of upper class waiting room at Forbesganj on the North Eastern Railway in Bihar, has been held up;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) when the said waiting room is likely to be ready for use?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The number of I and II Class passengers was not formerly sufficient to justify the provision of an upper class waiting room and therefore its construction was postponed temporarily. In view, however, of the booking of inter class passengers the construction of an upper class waiting room was permitted and it has since been completed.

(c) The waiting room has already been brought into use.

TOURIST TRAFFIC TO HILL STATIONS

***1203. Shri N. M. Lingam:** Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of hill stations selected for development of tourism;

(b) the steps taken to develop the stations and to give wide publicity to them; and

(c) the amount of subsidy, if any, sanctioned to local Tourist Advisory Committees?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) A list of important hill stations considered suitable for development of tourist traffic is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 31.]

(b) The steps taken by Government to develop the hill stations include:—

(i) issue of concessional return railway tickets for the season;

(ii) publication of guide books, pamphlets, posters, etc.; and

(iii) exhibition of films.

(c) No subsidy has been sanctioned to any Tourist Bureau or Local Advisory Committee.

SAFETY IN LADIES' COMPARTMENTS

***1204. Shrimati Sushama Sen:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what effective steps Government contemplate for checking incidents of assaults and robbery in ladies' compartments in Railways?

(b) Are any safety devices contemplated by the Railway authorities to ensure safe travelling of ladies and children?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Steps have already been taken towards this end and include:

(i) provision of armed escorts on important passenger trains;

(ii) fixing of iron bars to windows and safety latches to doors of train compartments;

(iii) positioning of ladies compartments in the centre of trains, as far as possible; and

(iv) permission to ladies travelling alone at night to take one female servant or companion in a higher class with a 3rd class ticket.

(b) It has been recently decided—

(i) to increase the number of bars from 3 to 4 per window in all compartments; and

(ii) to further secure the lavatory windows by welding a flat bar in the middle on the existing window bars and make the window bar assembly tamper-proof from outside by rivetting mushroom head bolts over the nuts as the coaches pass through shops for periodical overhaul repairs (P.O.H.).

PRIVATE RAILWAY SIDINGS

***1205. Pandit Lingaraj Misra:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received applications from certain Orissa Mine Owners who are willing to bear the entire cost of private assisted siding; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Ten applications were received during the last three months but it is not known whether the applicants are mine owners. Of these applications two have been rejected and others are still under examination.

LABOUR APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

***1206** { **Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani:**
Shri Raghavachari:

Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank Employees in India have demanded the appointment of a person enjoying their confidence on the Labour Appellate Tribunal of India, Bombay which is to hear appeals against the Shastri Award; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take on this matter?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) Copies of resolutions adopted at meetings of bank employees, making such a demand were received from one particular union of bank employees.

(b) Government is not in a position to accept demands of this nature. The appointments are made in accordance with Section 5 of the Industrial Disputes (Appellate Tribunal) Act, 1950, sub-section (2) which lays down the qualifications of members of the Appellate Tribunal.

TELEPHONE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

*1207. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Indian delegate attended the meeting of the Telephone Consultative Committee of the International Tele-Communication Union held at Lahore recently; and

(b) whether and, if so, what decisions were arrived at the Committee?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes. An Indian delegation consisting of 5 members attended the meeting of the International Telephone Consultative Sub-Committee held at Lahore from the 1st December 1953 to the 15th December 1953.

(b) The Sub-Committee took the following decisions:—

(i) It worked out a plan of a telecommunications network for connecting countries in South Asia upto and including Hong Kong and Philippines with those in the Middle East for carriage of international telephone and telegraph traffic. The plan also provides for inter-connection between the proposed network and those already worked out for handling international traffic in the European and Mediterranean regions.

(ii) In preparing the above plan for inter-connection, it was accepted that Administrations were free—

(a) to continue the use of other forms of telecommunications such as High Frequency Radio Telephone networks and submarine cable lines (other than those forming part of the network proposed by the Sub-committee); and

(b) to decide on the proportion of traffic that should be handled by the proposed network and by other forms of telecommunications.

(iii) In view of the fact that overhead lines form the only system of telecommunications at present, on the general routes which have been proposed to be adopted, it was agreed that the realistic as well as the economical approach would be to make use of the existing over-head lines in the proposed plan.

SEROLOGICAL LABORATORY

*1208. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal of the Bombay Government to set up a laboratory for the Serological work in Medicolegal cases has been accepted; and

(b) if so, whether the proposed laboratory has been set up in the Bombay State?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a) After full consideration of the matter it was decided not to accept the proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

CAST IRON M. G. SLEEPERS

*1209. **Shri Wodeyar:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mysore Iron and Steel Works, Bhadravathi supplied Cast Iron M. G. Sleepers to the Southern Railway in 1952-53;

(b) whether the factory has offered to supply M. G. Sleepers during 1953-54 also;

(c) whether the Railway Board has accepted the offer; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

SUGAR PRICES

*1210. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the prevailing prices of (i) crystal sugar, (ii) *khandsari* sugar, and (iii) *gur*?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Two statements, one showing the daily average prices of *Gur* and *Khandsari* during the month of December, 1953 at Hapur, and the other showing the daily average prices of sugar at the various markets of India, are laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 32.]

RAILWAY ACCIDENT BETWEEN BHEEMALGONDEE AND KUKRAKHAPA

*1211. **Shri Eswara Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of the accident on the 6th October, 1953 between Bheemalgondee and Kukrakhapa on the Narrow Gauge Section of the Eastern Railway:

(b) whether any enquiry has been held by the Inspector of Railways; and

(c) if so, what are his findings?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) An enquiry was held by a Committee of Junior Administrative Officers of the Railway; their finding is that the derailment was caused by fracture of outer rail.

(b) No, as this is not an accident into which an enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways is obligatory according to rules.

(c) Does not arise.

TAPIOCA

*1212. **Prof. Mathew:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the answer given to a supplementary question by Shri D. C. Sharma arising out of the reply given to starred question No. 1878 asked on the 6th May, 1953 and state whether Government have come to any decision regarding the offer of a million tons of tapioca flour by the All-Kerala Agricultural Development Association?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The offer of the All Kerala Agricultural Development Association was considered in consultation with the Travancore-Cochin Government. That Government have expressed doubts about the feasibility of exporting a million tons of this quantity from Travancore-Cochin and also their misgivings about allowing any large scale exports which would affect the food position in the State. In view of this, it is not proposed to accept the offer of the Association.

KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY

*1213. **Shri Hem Raj:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state by what date the construction of the dismantled Kangra Valley Railway will be completed?

(b) Have any representations been received by Government for the opening of new stations on this section?

(c) If so, have Government considered the desirability of opening stations at Ladhiara, Sullah and Saliana?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The restoration of the Nagrota-Jogindernagar Section of the Kangra Valley Railway which was dismantled during the War is expected to be completed by February, 1954.

(b) The only representations received regarding the opening of new Railway Stations on the Kangra Valley Railway Section are those relating to the opening of a Station near Sullah and at Panchrukhi.

(c) It has been decided to open a station at Panchrukhi but not one near Sullah as it would be only about 3 miles from the adjoining station.

BONE-MEAL

***1214. Shri Deogam:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in bone-meal;

(b) what quantity of raw bones are exported annually and to what countries: and

(c) what quantity of bone-meal is annually imported and from which countries?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export of raw bones is banned.

(c) Bone-meal is not imported.

HASSAN-MANGALORE RAILWAY LINE

***1215. Shri Siddananjappa:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 1395 asked on the 18th September, 1953 and state whether preliminary survey work relating to the Hassan-Mangalore Railway line has been taken in hand?

(b) If so, what is the progress made so far?

(c) When is the survey report expected?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir. A traffic survey is being carried out and an aerial survey will also be carried out very shortly. The estimate for the Engineering ground survey is under sanction.

(b) and (c). The surveys have only recently been sanctioned and it is too early to say when the reports would be available for examination.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES (SENIORITY)

*1216. { **Shri Siddananjappa:**
Shri R. S. Lal:

Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preparation of combined seniority lists of Class III and Class IV staff of the re-grouped Railways has been completed; and

(b) what are the main principles on which the determination of seniority is based?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No, but the work is in progress.

(b) The main principles on which the combined seniority lists are to be drawn up are the length of service in the grade, permanent and officiating; and maintenance of *inter se* seniority in the original unit.

SHASTRI TRIBUNAL

***1217. Shri Damodara Menon:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state the reasons for delay in filling up vacancies in the Shastri Tribunal under Section 8 of the Industrial Disputes Act?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): There was never a vacancy among the Members of the Shastry Tribunal. It was an *ad hoc* Tribunal and ceased to exist after the Tribunal had given its main award on the 20th March 1953.

DEMURRAGE CHARGES

***1218. Shri U. M. Trivedi:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that different rates of demurrage charges are levied by the various Zones of the Railways?

(b) What has been the percentage rise as between the charge 10 years ago and now?

(c) What are the criteria under which such rates are fixed?

(d) Who fixes them and under what provision of law?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Demurrage is levied at a uniform rate on all railways, except at a few stations on the North Eastern Railway where the rates are higher.

(b) (i) No increase on the Northern, Central, Western and Southern Railways.

(ii) An increase ranging from 33⅓ per cent. to 50 per cent. on the Eastern Railway.

(iii) An increase ranging from 50 per cent. to 200 per cent. at only 16 stations of the North Eastern Railway.

(c) Rates for demurrage are fixed so as to procure prompt release of wagons, and to act as a deterrent against the use of wagons as warehouses.

(d) The ceiling rates are laid down by the Railway Board in exercise of powers conferred on them under clauses (f) and (g) of sub-section (1) of Section 47 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890.

The Railways are authorised to exceed ceiling rates in emergencies.

RAILWAY STATION AT NAIGAON

*1219. **Shrimati Jayashri:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway authorities gave an assurance in 1950, that the demand by the inhabitants of the 14 villages around Naigaon in Bassein Taluka for opening of a new station between Bhayandu and Bassein Road (Western Railway), would be met as early as possible; and

(b) if so, when the work will be undertaken?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) The Government of Bombay and the Secretary, Naigaon Railway Station Committee were advised in 1950 that efforts would be made to provide for a station at Naigaon in the programme for 1952-53, but no assurance as such was given.

The work could not, however, be included in the Works Programme for 1952-53, or in subsequent years on financial considerations.

(b) It has been decided to place the proposal before the Passenger Amenities Sub-Committee of the Western Railway Users' Consultative Committee for their consideration with a view to its inclusion in the Works Programme of 1955-56.

LEMON GRASS OIL AND SANDALWOOD OIL

*1220. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the Agricultural Marketing Adviser with regard to the feasibility of quality control on lemon grass oil and sandalwood oil;

(b) if so, what are the main recommendations; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to ensure quality control on export of these commodities?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (c). Yes.

(b) (i) To set up a control laboratory at Cochin for analysing check-samples of essential oils.

(ii) To fix label charges @ Rs. 2/8/- and Rs. 12/8/- per 100 lbs. on the export of lemon-grass and sandalwood oils respectively under the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937. The trade has agreed to these charges.

SPICES ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

*1221. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the main recommendations of the Spices Enquiry Committee?

(b) What action do Government propose to take on these recommendations?

(c) Do Government propose to place a copy of the Report on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The Spices Enquiry Committee has made separate recommendations in regard to each of the six Dollar earning crops. The main recommendations of the Committee are (i) Setting up of a Central Development Fund for pepper and cashewnut which are the two most important Dollar earning commodities. The Central Fund would be utilised for developing the production and marketing of these commodities according to an integrated ten year plan; (ii) Special agencies should be set up in U.S.A. and U.K. for the publicity and sales promotion; and (iii) Central and State Advisory Committees to be set up to organise development of spices.

(b) Recommendations of the Committee are being examined in consultation with other Ministries concerned.

(c) The Report of the Committee is under print and as soon as it is available, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

ASSAULT ON RAILWAY PASSENGERS

*1222. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that three women passengers of the 68 Down Sealdah bound Delhi Express were thrown out of the running train by some intruder between Kashi and Moghalsarai Stations of the Northern Railway in the morning hours of the 27th November, 1953?

(b) When did the driver and guard of that train and the Railway authorities of nearest stations come to know about this incident?

(c) When those women were taken to the hospital?

(d) Has the intruder been arrested?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shahnawaz Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) As the train was not stopped the driver and the guard did not become aware of the incident. Railway staff at Kashi, Moghalsarai and Banaras learnt of the incident on the following day.

(c) These women were taken to the Railway Hospital at Moghalsarai at about 5-45 a.m. on 27th. One of them who was seriously injured was soon after removed to the King Edward Hospital, Banaras, at about 6-10 a.m.

(d) Yes.

KHANAPUR RAILWAY STATION

514. **Shri Joachim Alva:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what measures Government propose to take to provide shelter against heavy rains to passengers at Khanapur Railway Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): A platform shelter is under construction.

KHANAPUR RAILWAY STATION

515. **Shri Joachim Alva:** (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether Government are aware that there is no over-bridge at Khanapur Railway Station in Belgaum District of the Bombay State which results in danger to passengers who cross the platform?

(b) What is the number of accidents which occurred last year at the Khanapur Railway Station as a result of this deficiency?

(c) Do Government propose to provide a second class Waiting Room at Khanapur Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). There is no over-bridge at Khanapur Station but there have been no reports so far of accidents due to this.

(c) The number of Upper Class passengers dealt with at this station at present is too small and the provision of an upper class waiting room cannot be justified in the circumstances.

PUBLIC CALL OFFICES

516. Shri Joachim Alva: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether Government have under consideration a proposal to fix a public telephone booth at the Post Offices at the Taluka headquarters of Khanapur and Bailhongal in Belgaum District of the Bombay State?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): A proposal for a Public Call Office at Bailhongal only has been examined. As it is expected to result in a loss to Government, it can be sanctioned if guaranteed. The question of giving this facility to Khanapur will be examined.

MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEMES IN ANDHRA

517. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of new special Minor Irrigation Schemes of Andhra State have recently been approved by the Central Government;

(b) if so, what is the amount sanctioned for these schemes during 1953-54; and

(c) what is their number?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Yes, Sir, as a part of the full programme of special minor irrigation schemes for the composite State of Madras.

(b) An amount of Rs. 82,01,765 has been sanctioned for the composite State in 1953-54; the proportionate share of the Andhra State is estimated at Rs. 36,59,150.

(c) About 578 schemes.

HONEY

518. Shri Barman: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the quantity of honey imported from abroad annually?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Imports of honey are not separately recorded in the Sea Borne Trade Accounts nor is this item classified separately in the Import Trade Control Schedule. Import figures are, therefore, not available.

PRODUCTION OF *Gur* IN TRIPURA

519. Shri Dasaratha Deb: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the total output of *gur* in Tripura in 1951 and 1952?

(b) Have Government taken steps to increase *gur* production in Tripura?

(c) If so, what are the measures taken so far?

(d) What are the facilities arranged for the producers by Government for selling of *gur* outside Tripura?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 6,640 tons in 1951 and 5,550 tons in 1952.

(b) and (c). For increasing the production of *gur* increase in the production of sugar-cane is necessary. With a view to increasing the yield of sugarcane per acre and also the sucrose content in cane, improved varieties of cane are being introduced in Tripura.

(d) As the entire production of *gur* is consumed within Tripura itself, the State Government do not consider it necessary to provide any facilities for the producers to sell their produce outside the State.

TOURISTS

520. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Minister of **Transport** be pleased to state how many foreigners visit Udaipur in Rajasthan annually?

(b) What facilities have been provided there for foreign tourists?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Statistics of foreign tourists visiting individual places are not maintained.

(b) No special facilities have been provided for foreign tourists visiting Udaipur.

DIGGI-DEOLI RAILWAY LINE

521. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state when the extension of Diggi-Deoli Railway line is expected to be taken in hand for construction purposes?

(b) When is the line likely to be completed?

(c) How much amount will be spent over it?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). It is not proposed to extend the line right upto Deoli as originally contemplated. The *ex*-Jaipur State Government decided to construct the line upto Toda Rai Singh only as the *ex*-Udaipur Government decided not to construct the portion from Deoli to Chittorgarh. There was, therefore, no point in constructing the line upto Deoli, which involved the provision of a major bridge across the Banas River. The line from Sanganer has been constructed and opened as under:—

(i) Sanganer Town to Diggi, 37·5 miles, completed and opened in 1950.

(ii) Digi to Tordi Sagar, 12·52 miles, completed and opened in May, 1953.

The line from Tordi Sagar to Toda Rai Singh, 15·21 miles, is to be opened shortly.

(c) The estimated cost of the line from Sanganer to Toda Rai Singh comes to Rs. 120·28 lakhs.

RAILWAY TRAINING CENTRES

522. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the number of trainees in the various Railway Training Centres in India?

(b) Are there any foreign trainees also?

(c) If so, how many and from which countries?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 33.]

NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION

523. Shri K. Subrahmanyam: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the remodelling of the New Delhi Railway Station is in progress?

(b) What is the estimated expenditure?

(c) What amount has been spent so far?

(d) What are the facilities that are covered by the remodelling scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is estimated to cost Rs. 19·95 lakhs approximately.

(c) Rs. 1·39 lakhs approximately.

(d) The new building, amongst other facilities like waiting rooms, refreshment rooms and retiring rooms for upper class passengers, will include spacious waiting halls, improved vendors stalls and retiring rooms for III class passengers.

BOBBILI-SALUR BRANCH LINE

524. Shri K. Subrahmanyam: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether the construction of Bobbili-Salur Branch line has been completed?

(b) If so, when are the trains expected to commence running on this line?

(c) What is the total cost incurred on the restoration of this line?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Not yet, Sir. It is still in progress.

(b) Before the end of the current financial year.

(c) Rs. 11·69 lakhs approximately.

OVER-BRIDGE AT BOBBILI RAILWAY STATION

525. Shri K. Subrahmanyam: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to construct an over-bridge at the Bobbili Railway Station?

(b) If so, when its construction will begin?

(c) What is the estimated cost?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As soon as all the materials for fabrication of the bridge structure, which have been indented for, are received, the fabrication work will be taken in hand. Actual construction work at site would be started soon after the fabrication work has been completed.

(c) Rs. 15,256.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN KANGRA DISTRICT

526. Shri Hem Raj: Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post and telegraph offices in the Kangra District. in August, 1947;

(b) the number of post and telegraph offices opened there up to date, year-wise. since August, 1947; and

(c) the number of places where new post and telegraph offices are proposed to be opened during the remaining three years of the First Five Year Plan?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) On the 15th August, 1947, the number of post and telegraph offices in Kangra District was as follows:—

(i) Post Offices excluding Combined Post and Telegraph Offices ...	190
(ii) Combined Post and Telegraph Offices	29

(b)	P. Os.	C. Os.
1947-48	33	—
1948-49	8	—
1949-50	11	—
1950-51	4	2
1951-52	7	1
1952-53	1	—
1953-54	4	—
(up to date)	68	3

(c) Post Offices ...	19
Combined Post Offices ...	2

PILGRIMAGE TAX

527. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the stations in Rajasthan where terminal or pilgrim tax is levied; and

(b) the annual income from such taxes at each station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

LOCUST INVASION

528. Shri D. C. Sharma: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the amount of damage caused by the locust invasion in India in 1953?

(b) How does it compare with the invasion of 1952?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) According to the estimates of the State Governments, the amount of damage done to agricultural produce is about 650 tons during the current year.

(b) State Governments reported that damage done in 1952 was about 19,000 tons.

UNEMPLOYMENT

529. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) how many persons sought employment assistance at the Employment Exchanges during the month of September 1953; and

(b) whether there is shortage of qualified compounders, electricians and technicians in the employment lists?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) 1,21,600.

(b) Yes.

MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN WEST BENGAL

530. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of small irrigation projects taken in hand and completed since 1947, yearwise, in West Bengal;

(b) the total area benefited; and

(c) the area reclaimed and benefited?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the Government of West Bengal and will be placed on the Table of the House when received.

MALARIA CONTROL UNITS

531. **Shri S. N. Das:** Will the Minister of **Health** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Malaria Control Units that are actually operating under the National Malaria Control Programme throughout the country;

(b) whether any assessment of the work done so far has been made;

(c) if so, what is the result of the assessment;

(d) the total number of houses that are regularly sprayed with D.D.T.; and

(e) the total number of cases of malaria, that have so far been treated under this Programme?

The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur): (a), (d) and (e). The required information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(b) Not yet.

(c) Does not arise.

SCHEDULED CASTES

532. **Shri Nanadas:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of candidates belonging to scheduled castes who sat for the Combined Engineering Services Examination held in January, 1953;

(b) the number of vacancies reserved for the scheduled castes; and

(c) the number of candidates interviewed and finally selected?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): By the courtesy of the Union Public Service Commission the following information is given:

(a) Three.

(b) Eleven.

(c) Two Scheduled Castes Candidates were interviewed by the Union Public Service Commission who have recommended one candidate for appointment.

GUDUR MICA MINES

533. **Shri Nanadas:** (a) Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state the number of jack hammers that are in use in Gudur Mica mining area?

(b) How many of them are wet hammers?

(c) Is it a fact that persons working with dry jack hammers are subject to a disease called "syliclos"?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) About ninety. The number of jack hammers in use varies daily according to the number of machines in good repair and fit for use and the necessity for their use.

(b) Seventy-two are fitted for wet drilling.

(c) Yes, unless such jack hammers working dry are provided with an efficient dust-trap. Whether the person concerned contracts silicosis depends on many factors such as duration of exposure, concentration of dust in the atmosphere, fineness of the dust, nature of the dust, physical condition of the person, etc.

SHAW MICA MINE IN GUDUR

534. Shri Nanadas: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) the depth of the "Shaw Mica Mine" near Gudur;

(b) whether the pillars and walls of the Mine are in sound condition;

(c) whether any electric lift system has been provided for the workers to go in and come out of the mine; and

(d) whether electric lights are also provided on all the work spots and pits in the Mine?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) About 600 ft.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). No.

PASSENGER AMENITIES

535. Shri Gidwani: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Northern Railway has decided to provide additional facilities to the travelling public during the current year?

(b) What facilities will be provided for third class passengers at the Delhi Main Station?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the facilities which are being provided is attached. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 34.]

MOVEMENT OF *Jawar* AND WHEAT

536. Shri Heda: (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state what are the States that restrict the free movement of *jawar* and wheat from one district to another within the State as on the 15th November, 1953?

(b) What are those restrictions?

(c) Are they going to be withdrawn?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 35.]

(c) The remaining restrictions are expected generally to be removed in terms of the Government of India's decision issued to All States in the 1st week of November, 1953, decontrolling wheat and coarse grains except to the extent of retention of inter-State barriers.

RAILWAY STAFF

537. Shri M. N. Singh: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state the different grades of foremen, assistant foremen, senior chargemen, chargemen, and assistant chargemen with their scales of pay in O.T. Zone of the North Eastern Railway?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): A statement is herewith attached. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 36.]

CHAIN-PULLING

538. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that chain-pulling is a daily feature between Badhaiya station and Jamalpur Junction on the Eastern Railway; and

(b) what measures Government propose to take to check this menace?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There is no station called Badhaiya. There is however a station named Bhedia in the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway which is 196 miles from Jamalpur Junction.

It has been ascertained that on the entire length of the railway between these two stations there were 112 cases of chain-pulling during November, 1953.

(b) Measures taken to prevent unnecessary chain-pulling include the following:—

- (i) Policemen in plain clothes are deputed on sections where alarm chain-pulling is particularly rampant.
- (ii) A reward of Rs. 10 is offered to any railway servant who apprehends a culprit, resulting in successful prosecution; and
- (iii) Alarm chain apparatus is disconnected in compartments of trains badly affected, with the exception of ladies compartments.

MATERNITY LEAVE

539. Shri Muniswamy: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Maternity Leave admissible to women employees on Railways has been restricted to once in three years?

(b) If so, what are the reasons?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes.

(b) On account of the increase in the number of women employees it has been found necessary to restrict maternity leave in order to avoid administrative difficulties. The restriction applies in all Central Government departments.

MARSHALLING YARD AT ABU ROAD STATION

540. Shri S. G. Parikh: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a Marshalling Yard is to be remodelled at Abu Road Station in view of the traffic expected from Kandala Port?

(b) Why Abu Road Station site is being selected instead of Palanpur Station site?

(c) What amount is to be spent on the Marshalling Yard at Abu Road Station?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that all the wagons coming from Kandala Port will have to pass *via* Palanpur Station to Abu Road Station, for being marshalled and once again to be back to Palanpur Station to go to their destinations in North Gujrat, Saurashtra and Ahmedabad area?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) There is already a Marshalling Yard at Abu Road, and its remodelling is under consideration with a view to providing additional facilities.

(b) Since the location of main yards for handling traffic has to be determined in relation to the engine runs and the location of engine sheds and the present engine run is to and from Abu Road in the area under reference, Abu Road Station site is being selected instead of the Palanpur Station site.

(c) As the plans are still to be finalised, it is too early to say as to what would be the estimated cost of the work.

(d) The presumption that all wagons from Kandala would be taken to Abu Road, and then taken back to Palanpur for despatch to destinations is not correct. The present intention is for all wagons for Palanpur and south of Palanpur to be detached and dealt with at Palanpur.

RAILWAY HIGH SCHOOL, KHARAGPUR

541. Shri S. C. Samanta: (a) Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state how many students are taught through the medium of Urdu in the Railway Indian High School at Kharagpur (Eastern Railway)?

(b) How many of them are Muhammadans?

(c) How many of them belong to the families of Railway employees?

(d) What is the number of classes in which Urdu is taught at present and what were their corresponding numbers from 1948 to 1952 (year-wise)?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) 114.

(b) 32.

(c) 14.

(d)	1948	Classes I to X
	1949	
	1950	
	1951	Classes V to X.
	1952	Classes VI to X.
	1953	Classes VII to X.

चीनी

५४२. श्री बादशाह गुप्त : क्या **खाद्य तथा कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) अप्रैल १९५२ से अक्तूबर, १९५३ तक कितने मूल्य की चीनी आयात की गई है; तथा

(ख) क्या सरकार ने चीनी के आयात-निर्यात से होने वाली कोई हानि अपने ऊपर लेने की जिम्मेदारी ली है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The *ex*-docks cost (including import duty and all port trust and clearing charges) of 58,932 tons sugar imported into India upto the end of October, 1953 worked out to Rs. 4·18 crores, or Rs. 26 per maund. The average *ex*-docks cost of the entire quantity of 2·52 lakh tons sugar purchased for import in 1953 is, however, only Rs. 25 per maund.

(b) The imported sugar is being sold at Rs. 30 per maund *ex*-docks at Bombay, Bhavnagar, Cochin and Madras and at Rs. 29/4/- per maund at Calcutta. As such there is no question of sustaining any loss in the sale of imported sugar; on the other hand the transaction will result in a profit of Rs. 3·40 crores.

With regard to exports of sugar, in view of a record production of 15 lakh tons in 1951-52 and relatively low off-take, it was anticipated that there would be a huge carry-over of more than 5 lakh tons at the end of the season. Although the prices in the internal market had fallen below the controlled rates they were relatively high compared to the prices at which sugar was available from other surplus countries even after making allowance for refund of excise duty and also cane cess, in case of exports from U.P. factories. It was, therefore, decided to release sugar for export at a reduced price-reduction not exceeding Rs. 2 per maund to enable Indian shippers to compete in foreign markets. The total quantity of sugar exported under this scheme, during the year 1952-53, was 6,316 tons on which the amount of compensation to be paid works out to Rs. 3·5 lakhs.

PALM *Gur*

543. Shri Bheekha Bhai: Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred question No. 156 asked on the 25th November, 1953 and state the quantity of palm *gur* produced in India, State-wise, in 1952?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 37.]

"OWN YOUR TELEPHONE" SCHEME

544. { **Shri Gidwani:**
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:

(a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have withdrawn "Own Your Telephone" Scheme from a number of towns of India?

(b) If so, what are the reasons therefor?

(c) What is the number of telephones so far introduced under this Scheme and what is the total amount so far realised?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) Yes. The scheme has been withdrawn from the following stations: Bhatinda, Dhubri, Dhuri, Erode, Gudur, Indore, Kotkapura, Meerut, Rajkot and Surat.

(b) There were no demands for telephones under the 'Own Your Telephone' Scheme at these stations and spare capacity was available.

(c) 'Own Your Telephone' Telephones given upto 30th November 1953............15,776.

Amount realised under the 'Own Your Telephone' Scheme upto 30th November 1953.........Rs. 3,82,98,000.

BABATPUR AERODROME

545. Shri Ganpati Ram: (a) Will the Minister of **Communications** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is only one hand pump to supply water to the whole residential area of Babatpur Aerodrome?

(b) Are Government contemplating to make adequate arrangements for eradicating the water difficulties?

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

612 PSD.

LABOUR WELFARE WORK

546. Shri P. C. Bose: Will the Minister of **Labour** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any sums of money are lying unpaid with the Commissioners of Workmen's Compensation in different States for various reasons; and

(b) whether the unclaimed amounts can be utilised for labour welfare work?

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): (a) A statement giving the available information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 38.]

(b) The compensation money deposited with the Commissioner is intended for payment to the injured person or his dependants as the case may be. In certain circumstances the money can be invested, applied or dealt with otherwise by the Commissioner for the benefit of the person concerned. The money cannot be utilised for any other purpose like labour welfare work.

"अधिक अन्न उपजाओ" योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत विन्ध्य प्रदेश को सहायता

५४७. **श्री रणदमन सिंह :** क्या **खाद्य तथा कृषि** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत पांच वर्षों में "अधिक अन्न उपजाओ" योजनाओं के अन्तर्गत केन्द्र ने विन्ध्य प्रदेश को कितनी सहायता दी है ?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The following assistance has been given to Vindhya Pradesh under the "Grow More Food Schemes" during the last five years.

(Rs. in Lakhs

	Grant	Recoverable Expenditure	Loan
1949-50	0·30	...	...
1950-51	6 20	...	19 38
1951-52	1·79	...	9 44
1952-53	8·72	...	21 08
1953-54	2·23	8 33	12·65
TOTAL	19 24	8·33	62·55

TUBE-WELLS IN TRIPURA

548. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** (a) Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the number of tube-wells that have been sunk throughout Tripura from 1951 to 1953?

(b) How many of them were sunk in the Kirania Community Project area?

(c) How many of those tube-wells are in the Tribal areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) 167.

(b) 3.

(c) 39.

बिलडी रेलवे स्टेशन

५४९. **श्री डामर** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) क्या पश्चिमी क्षेत्र के बिलडी स्टेशन पर यात्रियों के लिये टट्टियां बनाई जा रही हैं;

(ख) इस स्टेशन पर टट्टियां बनवाने में कितना खर्च होगा;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने १९५३–५४ के वर्ष में पश्चिमी रेलवे पर रहने के क्वार्टर बनाने के लिये कोई धन राशि रखी है; तथा

(घ) यदि हां, तो कितनी राशि ?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2 lavatories are proposed to be provided at Bildi station during this year at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,200.

(c) Not at Bildi, but Staff Quarters are being built at many other stations.

(d) Does not arise.

RAILWAY ENQUIRY OFFICES

550. **Shri M. L. Agrawal:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to state what are the conditions governing the provision of enquiry offices at Railway Stations?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): Enquiry offices are generally opened at busy stations where public enquiries are frequent and public telephone facilities are usually available.

RAILWAY COACH UNDERFRAMES

551. **Shri Eswara Reddi:** Will the Minister of **Railways** be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred question No. 171 asked on the 21st November, 1953 and state:

(a) whether the 200 underframes despatched by the Belgium Firm have since been received;

(b) if so, the value of the same in Indian currency and the amount of freight charges;

(c) how many of the underframes will be allocated to the Hindustan Aircraft Factory; and

(d) the total number of coaches built at Hindustan Aircraft Factory since 1st January, 1953 to 30th November, 1953?

The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 130.

(d) 113.

PALM *Gur*

553. { **Shri Siddananjappa:**
Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state the amount allotted for subsidy State-wise, for development schemes of Plam *gur* during 1953-54?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix V, annexure No. 39.]

Date 25.11.2

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Monday, 21st December, 1953

The House met at half past one of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

2-35 P.M.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Speaker: I have received notices of three Adjournment Motions. In the first place I find that these Adjournment Motions—or at least two of them—are unduly long and argumentative. However, I do not propose to reject them on that ground. But *prima facie* it appears they all deal with subjects with which the States are concerned—that is what I find.

ADMISSION IN ANGLO-INDIAN SCHOOLS

Mr. Speaker: One is by Mr. Anthony about "the violation of the mandatory provision in Article 337 of the Constitution laying down that Anglo-Indian schools shall admit at least 40 per cent. of pupils of other communities, as a pre-condition to the receipt of Government grants, by prohibiting Anglo-Indian schools in the Bombay State, by Government letter so and so, dated so and so.........." I need not read the other part of it. Obviously, this is a letter written by the Government of Bombay giving instructions to their Inspectors of Schools.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): May I make a submission, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: He can, if he likes. I have read his letter also which argues as to how it is a breach of the Constitution. There is ample scope for difference of opinion on the interpretation of this provision. But whatever that may be, if there is a violation of any mandatory provisions, the question has first to be agitated, to my mind, in the Bombay State, which is competent to issue instructions. Parliament is not the place for it.

If still the hon. Member is dissatisfied, the law courts will provide him the relief.

Shri Frank Anthony: Sir, may I respectfully point out that this is one of the safeguards given in the Constitution to the minorities. The implementing of these safeguards is the sole responsibility of the Home Minister.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I do not think that the responsibility for implementing every safeguard, which is the business of the States to implement, can be the responsibility of the Home Minister at the Centre.

I do not think I can give my consent to this Motion.

TRANSPORT STRIKE IN TRAVANCORE-COCHIN

Mr. Speaker: In so far as the other motion is concerned, I have nothing to say about its form. But clearly, it is also a State subject. It reads like this:

> "That the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent

[Mr. Speaker]

public importance namely, the situation arising out of the country-wide transport strike in Travancore-Cochin State."

It is primarily a subject of a State.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair (Quilon *cum* Mavelikkara): It is an inter-departmental conflict. There an employee has been assaulted by the Police and the entire staff of the transport service have gone on strike.

Mr. Speaker: Whether it is an inter-departmental, or it is a matter of only one Department of the State, admittedly it is a State subject.

Shri N. Sreekantan Nair: There is no legislature there now.

Mr. Speaker: So, they will have to approach the Ministry there. It is not a matter which can be discussed on an adjournment motion in this House.

DOCK LABOUR BOARD

Mr. Speaker: The third motion is by Shri Tridib Kumar Chaudhuri:

> "That the business of the House do adjourn to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the situation arising out of the failure of the Central Government to take effective measures for ensuring the normal functioning of the Dock Labour Board, Kidderpore, Calcutta, against the attempts of stevedore and the local police to subvert the Board, for the protection of workers loyal to the Board against the attacks by stevedore financed goondas and the police as evidenced by the unwarranted assault and vandalism perpetrated on the Board Office and the dock workers standing in file before the Dock Labour Board Call Office to register attendance on 19-12-53."

It is difficult to see how this is admissible. But I want to know what is this Dock Labour Board, what has Government to do with that? If anything, from the form of the motion, it appears the aggrieved party is the Dock Labour Board in this case.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri (Berhampore): Sir, there was a news item in yesterday's papers about large-scale disturbances before the office of the Dock Labour Board and some sixty persons were injured by police firing and some 112 persons were taken under police custody. As the paper reports have revealed, it had something to do with the Dock Labour Board. But you have often advised us not to rely on paper reports. It was apparent to me from the conflicting versions appearing in papers that there was something fishy about it. Most of the papers mentioned one union, the Dock Mazdoor Union whose representatives have already been appointed by the Central Government in the Dock Labour Board. So far as that union is concerned, it seemed to me that there would have been no objection from the side of the common mass of labourers. But I put myself in touch with the leaders of the union over the telephone and I have received telegrams, and now the Calcutta papers have also arrived.

Now I have to give some background history of the thing as briefly as possible.

Mr. Speaker: We are concerned here with the admissibility of the motion. I want to know how the question of responsibility of the Central Government arises in this case.

Shri T. K. Chaudhuri: The responsibility of the Central Government arises, Sir, because of the fact that the Dock Labour Board has been appointed by the Central Government, and the Central Government are fully aware that since the inception of the Board it has been the anxiety of the Calcutta stevedores, the majority of whom are Europeans, to see that the Board does not function properly—because it is the function of the Dock Labour Board to afford some sort of protection to labourers as regards their conditions of labour, employment, wages, etc. And since then there have been persistent efforts by all the stevedores to undermine and subvert the Dock Labour Board. The events that took place on the 19th instant are a part of that systematic attempt, and the reports published in the papers take a biassed view of things. The real facts are that a section of local hooligans supported by the police—of course so far as the police are concerned I am not going into that matter, the State Government would go into it—are responsible for this. But so far as the Central Government is concerned we are entitled to know and this House is entitled to know why the Central Government has not taken any steps since the inception of the Dock Labour Board to see that the Board can function properly and can discharge its responsibilities towards the dock workers properly.

The Minister of Labour (Shri V. V. Giri): Sir, the Dock Labour Board was appointed at the instance of the Central Government and it is wrong to say that the Central Government is responsible for its not conducting itself properly. On the Dock Labour Board there are representatives of workers and employees and the Board has been functioning properly.

Here it is a case where two parties were fighting, and some fight took place. For that the Central Government is not at all responsible. The Central Government did its duty in establishing the Dock Labour Board and the Board is functioning normally. Therefore I do not know where we come into the picture. However, I have no further information except what I have read in the press. If necessary, I shall get further information in the matter.

Mr. Speaker: In any case, I shall keep it over for tomorrow. Will he be able to get it by then?

Shri V. V. Giri: It may be kept by till day after tomorrow, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: So this is kept over till day after tomorrow. The hon. Minister will get information and then we will decide about the admissibility.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the hon. Members that I have received the following letter from Shri S. C. Balakrishnan:—

> "The sudden death of my only daughter affected my health and I am unable to attend the present session of the House so far.
>
> I request you to get the permission of the House for me to be absent from attending the fifth session."

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri S. C. Balakrishnan for remaining absent from all meetings of the House till the end of the present session?

Leave was granted.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENTS SHOWING ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON PROMISES AND ASSURANCES.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to lay on the table the following statements showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given during the various sessions shown against each:—

(1) Supplementary Statement No. III	Fourth Session, 1953 of the House of the People.
[*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 14.]	
(2) Supplementary Statement No. VIII	Third Session, 1953 of the House of the People.
[*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 15.]	
(3) Supplementary Statement No IX	Second Session, 1952 of the House of the People.
[*See* Appendix VII, annexure No. 16.]	

SALT CESS BILL

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on salt for the purpose of raising funds to meet the expenses incurred on the salt organisation maintained by Government and on the measures taken by Government in connection with the manufacture, supply and distribution of salt, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill is rather a simple one. At the outset I wish to clarify that the Bill does not seek to impose a new or fresh cess, much less a cess at a higher rate than what is already in force. The Bill only seeks to provide for collection of a cess as precisely the same rate as has been collected for several years now from the time of the abolition of the salt duty in 1947. The levy of a charge on the salt manufactured in private and in Central Government salt factories at the rates now in force was decided upon in 1947, and a notification under rule 37 of the Central Excises and Salt Act was promulgated simultaneously with the abolition of the salt duty.

The abolition of the salt duty, a step of historic significance, is fresh in the minds of all of us. I need not recall to the minds of hon. Members the very great importance that was very rightly attached, if I may say so, during our freedom struggle, on the issue of the abolition of the salt duty.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Let there be no talk.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The move for such abolition entered an important and a dramtic phase in 1930 when Mahatma Gandhi launched the satyagraha movement and embarked on the Dandi march. The non-violent struggle ended successfully with the signing of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact which permitted certain relaxations on the collection and manufacture of salt by local residents in villages immediately adjoining areas where salt could be made. It was, however, only after our national leaders had assumed office in 1946 that it was possible finally to abolish the salt duty on 1st April 1947, on the eve of Independence. It was decided then that salt would not be used, as it was until then, as a major source of revenue. At the time the step to abolish the salt duty was taken, Government considered the matter fully and decided that it was necessary to have an organisation which should not merely regulate the production of salt in India but also one which should concentrate on improving the quality, increasing the production and, in short, developing the salt industry in a comprehensive and planned way.

The then Finance Minister, the late Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, during the budget session in 1947 when introducing the budget stated, *inter alia*, that—

> "Until now Government's interest in the salt industry has been largely confined to the raising of revenue; hereafter it is intended that its interest should be entirely positive and constructive and should be directed towards developing India's salt resources to their full potential, improving the quality of salt and making sufficient grades to provide for all classes to consumers, encouraging increased consumption by individuals and by cattle, providing adequate supplies for industrial uses, keeping prices at a minimum and ultimately making India fully self-supporting in this important commodity."

As a means to implement this policy, a notification was issued in 1947 providing for the levy of a cess under the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. The present Bill is intended to regulate the collection of this cess at the same rates as at present under the authority of a statute. There has been some doubt expressed in recent times about the propriety of Government levying this cess on the basis of the Central Excises and Salt Act and the rules thereunder and opinion has been given that it would be better to put the levy on a statutory basis. This is one of the reasons for the present Bill.

The second, and what I consider the more important object, is to lay down in the Act itself the purposes for which the sums so collected should be utilised. The House is well aware that we have similar cesses on the production of some other commodities which are collected, and after meeting the administrative expenses, the proceeds expended on the promotion of those particular industries. I may mention, for example, the cess on tea, coffee, rubber, for the development of these respective industries and the marketing of such products. We have also the example of the cess on coal levied in the interests of (i) coal mine labour welfare and (ii) conservation and safety in coal mines. Quite recently an Act has been passed that a cess shall be levied on mill cloth with the object of assisting and encouraging khadi and other cottage industries. The present measure, as I have explained, is a simple one. The cess is to be levied for and spent in the regulation and development of the salt industry, in a scientific and planned manner.

I would like to refer, at this stage, to the Salt Advisory Committee, which is consulted by the Government of India on problems relating to the Salt industry. The Committee includes representatives of the Central Government and the Governments of the various States which are the principal producers of salt, representatives of the salt manufacturers and traders and a representative of the labour engaged in the salt industry. The Committee has expressed itself in favour of the continuance of the cess and of the proceeds being spent on the development of the salt industry. The Salt Advisory Committee further advised in 1950-51 that the then existing exemption from the cess of the salt exported by sea to Calcutta should also be withdrawn. After their advice was acted upon by the Government with effect from February, 1952, all salt produced by the licensed manufacturers of salt in India has been subjected to the levy of the cess.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The recommendations of the Planning Commission, who have considered this salt industry in their programme of development during 1951—56 are of interest in this connection. The recommendations of the Planning Commission include the following: (i) The Salt Expert Committee's recommendations should be implemented as early as possible, including the adoption of more scientific methods of production by supplying technical advice to the Salt works, and by setting up model factories in the country, etc.; and (ii) the balance of income from the salt cess left over after meeting all administrative expenses should be utilised for the development of the salt industry.

I have referred to the Government policy decision taken in 1947 to play a positive and constructive role in respect of the development of the salt industry, particularly in the matter of improving the quality and increasing the production. During the last few years, some steps have been taken already to implement this policy. Licences were granted liberally. New salt works have been encouraged by affording all possible help to them in procuring, coal, cement, steel and other materials needed, with the result that production has been increasing very appreciably. The following figures will show the increase in the production during the last few years. In 1948-49, the production was 638 lakh maunds. In 1949-50, there was a slight fall to 579 lakh maunds. In 1950-51, it shot up to 718 lakh maunds. In 1951-52, the production was 750 lakh maunds and in 1952-53, it was 785 lakh maunds. The production in the current year is expected to reach the order of about 830 lakh maunds. The country attained self-sufficiency, for the first time during the last 100 years, last year itself. Not only has the country become self-sufficient, it has begun to export salt to foreign countries. The exports to Japan, for example, during

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

the current year 1952-53 have come to about 70 lakh maunds. Many items of work which had been neglected have been attended to at the various salt producing centres, namely, purchase of generating sets, construction of condensers and kyars, replacement of track, raising of kyars, embankments and reservoirs, cleaning of pans, common channels sluices, etc. Besides, efforts have been made to improve the quality of salt, a matter regarding which there was no control before 1950. The Indian Standards Institution has laid down a 96 per cent. sodium chloride content for salt. The standard of purity, that is the sodium chloride content for salt, prescribed and insisted upon before it is released for human consumption was fixed at 92 per cent. in 1951 and raised to 93 per cent. in 1952. We had fixed for this year 93:5 per cent. and the standard for 1954 has been raised to 94 per cent. The 96 per cent. standard is expected to be reached in about 2 or 3 years time. We have established 5 test laboratories and one model salt works and arrangements are in hand to open a salt research station at Bhavnagar. The distribution system has been organised and the shortages and scarcities that occurred in different areas have been largely eliminated. In the case of special categories of salt like the rock salt and Sambhar salt, which are in short supply, but for which there is great demand by some sections of the public, in certain States there are certain difficulties which it has been planned now to overcome in due course.

Though appreciable progress has been made, much however remains to be done in regard to quality control, the general development of the salt industry, opening of more research stations and model farms, reorganisation and re-alignment of small units on scientific lines, estabalishment of more test laboratories, isolation and utilisation of by-products, etc. It is essential to up-grade the quality to 96 per cent. sodium chloride content soon. With the cess realisations at our disposal, it will be possible to accelerate our development programmes, to encourage exports, to have more model farms, more research stations, etc., for demonstration purposes. Such research stations are needed also to utilise the by-products that otherwise go to waste. The Salt Expert Committee has recommended a long list of works to be attended to in this matter. For example, items like construction of percolation canals, cleaning of reservoirs and dams, laying of track,' construction of stores, extension of water supply services, setting up of model farms, test laboratories, private roads, channels, bridges, common platforms, etc., to some of which reference has already been made by me earlier. Such measures which are in accordance with the Expert Committee's recommendations, and endorsed by the Planning Commission, have to be either undertaken afresh in some cases or intensified in other cases.

The House would, no doubt, be interested to learn exactly what the incidence of the present cess is on the selling price of salt. If I may say so, the theoretical incidence is 6 pie, that is to say 1/20th of an anna on salt manufactured in private factories and 1 pie per seer in the case of salt produced in Government factories. I say theoretical incidence from the consumers angle because this sum is so small, only a fraction of a pie, that, if it is abolished, it cannot obviously be passed on to the benefit of the consumer. Practically, we may say that the incidence is nil. If the cess was abolished today, the consumer will not stand to gain at all. The abolition would only benefit the large-scale manufacturer or the middlemen. This argument applies with even greater force to any proposal to alter or reduce the cess downwards. Such an action will, on the one hand, afford no benefit to the consumer and will, on the other hand, reduce the sum available to the Government and thereby hamper the collection of cess and development of the industry.

By contrast, the incidence of the old salt duty was Rs. 1/9/0 per maund, that is to say, about 7½ pies per seer. Now and then there are expressions of surprise, if not actual complaint, that even after the abolition of the salt duty salt is not cheaper today than what it was when duty was being levied.

3 P.M.

It is firstly necessary to remember that although the salt duty contributed substantially to the annual revenues of the Exchequer, to the tune of about Rs. 9 crores in undivided India, and from the angle of incidence—per maund it was Rs. 1-9-0—it was fairly noticeable, it was not even then very much, when one considered the incidence on the price per seer. It was only 7½ pies per seer. The other point to remember is that since 1947, wages of labour and cost of production generally, cost of gunny bags and other packing material and railway freight to some extent, have all gone up and these have reduced the benefit that would have otherwise accrued to the consumer because of the abolition of the salt duty. Expressed in a different way, the abolition of the salt duty has had its effect and but for it, the retail price of salt would be today higher than it was in 1946 or 1947, instead of being actually lower.

It is proposed that the amount of the total cess minus the collection charges will be transferred each year, with the approval of Parliament, to a suitable deposit head under the "Salt Production and Development Fund", to be opened in the Government account for the purpose. All expenditure on development work, including the running of Research Laboratories, operation of model stations and the expenditure on salt administration will, as heretofore, be charged to the appropriate major head, but then the entire amount will be reimbursed and the expenditure of the fund will thus be under Parliamentary control.

I have already generally touched on Clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill. With reference to Clause 5, the validation Clause, I may explain that in order to remove all doubts, it is being provided in the Bill that the charge that was being levied in accordance with the 1947 Notification under the Central Excises and Salt Act, shall be deemed to have been levied under this Act, as if this Act was in force on the day on which the charge was so imposed, and during the period it has been levied. Such retrospective or validating measure is not uncommon or unusual. For example, in the Cotton Textiles Cess Act, 1948, the provision for giving the Act retrospective operation was adopted for the purpose of validating the levy of the cess from the 31st December, 1947 to the 1st March, 1948, when that Act came to be passed. An interesting case of validation of a cess that was being collected for many years is Act XXXI of 1927, Section 3 of which says that where any sum has been paid as cess under Section 116 of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act, 1901, before the commencement of Act XXXI of 1927, notwithstanding that it was not so payable and such sum would have been payable if the 1927 Act had been in force at the time of payment, such sum shall be deemed to have been legally due as cess. Quite recently, Section 31 of the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Act, 1953, similarly validated certain assessments which might have been held to be invalid if the relevant decision of a certain High Court were allowed to have full operation.

Under Clause 6 of the Bill, provision is made for the making of rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. Under these rule-making powers, provision will be made for the collection and expenditure of the cess, for giving exemption to specified categories, to draw up detailed development programmes etc. It will thus be possible to continue to exempt the salt manufactured by unlicensed manufacturers within specified limits. The question of the desirability of exempting the salt utilised in the manufacture of any other product of industry is engaging the Government's consideration, and the case of such industries too

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

will be dealt with under the rules that will be framed.

I do not wish, Sir, any longer to take up the time of the House. I have tried to explain the salient aspects of the Bill, and I hope the measure will wholly commend itself to the House.

Sir, I beg to move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on salt for the purpose of raising funds to meet the expenses incurred on the salt organisation maintained by Government and on the measures taken by Government in connection with the manufacture, supply and distribution of salt be taken into consideration."

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill. We are grateful to the hon. Minister for giving a historical retrospect of the salt question as well as for giving a clear idea of the present position of the industry. The Bill is very simple. By way of abundant caution, what is being done now is sought to be validated by a statutory enactment. As has been mentioned by the hon. Minister, no additional burden is sought to be imposed, to increase the present incidence of indirect taxation borne by the public at large.

However, whenever a discussion follows on any measure on salt in any form, a lot of sentimental consideration is apt to influence us all. It is an article of food, it is an article of daily use in all our homes, from the richest to the poorest. The hon. Minister did well to remind us about the significance attached to the salt industry in our freedom struggle. I wish to refer to what Gandhiji wrote to Lord Irwin in March, 1930. I quote:

> "I regard this tax to be the most inequitous of all from the poor man's standpoint. As the independence movement is essentially for the poorest in the land, the beginning will be made with this evil."

In 1945-46 the Government exchequer got Rs. 962 lakhs out of the collection of salt duty. In 1946-47 it was Rs. 846 lakhs. Taking into consideration the revenues of undivided India, evidently it formed a very substantial portion of our revenues. As has been mentioned by the hon. Minister, it was 7½ pies per seer before 1947, and it is only 0·6 pie per seer now, according to the cess which is now levied. On the basis of 0·6 pie per seer, our revenue amounted to Rs. 95 lakhs in 1952-53. It is, therefore, only a matter of calculation now, that a much greater amount than what we got in undivided India would have been secured by the Exchequer if we had adopted the old salt duty of Rs. 1-9-0 per maund.

Shri K. C. Reddy: About Rupees Fifteen Crores.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Suggestions have been made for increased receipt on the revenue side by resorting again to the salt duty which was levied before 1947. The House will remember that during last year, in the course of the Budget discussion, the late Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee even put forward a suggestion that we should put aside sentimental considerations and again revive the salt duty levied before 1947. I mention that fact not to advocate that suggestion, but to put forward the great difference in the incidence of taxation, if resorted to as a taxation measure. I am therefore surprised to find certain Amendments which have been tabled by the Opposition. I am referring to the Amendment of hon. Member Mr. Nanadas seeking a further reduction in the levy of duty that is sought to be introduced by the Bill, or the rate which is now being collected. The cess has been levied not from the standpoint of revenue at all. It is very clear from the Bill, and also from the speech of the hon. Minister. It cannot at all be considered as a revenue measure.

The question may be asked why not we abolish this salt cess altogether. The hon. Minister has given the answer. To cover the cost of the organisation and for the proper development of the industry, this small duty is quite essential. You will find from the Administration Report that has been published by the Production Ministry that a sum amounting to Rs. 38 lakhs has been spent in 1952-53 for keeping up the organisation itself. The expenditure had bordered on Rs. 38 lakhs in 1951-52 also. The previous year it was Rs. 37 lakhs. And it was thus ranging from Rs. 36 to Rs. 38 lakhs. I was pointing out that though this is a very attractive source of revenue for the Finance Minister, it has not at all been tapped. It is better also to remember that even the small cess that is realisable from the entire quantity of salt produced in the country is not being realised now, on account of several considerations. From April 1948, small scale manufacturers are allowed to manufacture salt freely without any licence or restrictions regarding storage, transport or sale over an area of up to 10 acres. The production of salt by such unlicensed manufacturers has been increasing by leaps and bounds. It is estimated that from 3 lakhs of maunds in 1949, it increased to 13 lakhs in 1950, 25 lakhs of maunds in 1951, 40 lakhs in 1952, and it will certainly be more than 50 lakhs of maunds in 1953. Even the Planning Commission has made a suggestion that this cess may be levied on the entire quantity of salt produced in the country, whether it be produced by licensed or unlicensed manufacturers.

I have got here a telegram which has perhaps been sent to the hon. Minister of Production, from the Tuticorin Salt Association, wherein that Association urges:

> "Adequate provision in the Bill for levying cess on all salt produced, without discriminating between private licensed factories and unlicensed ten-acre factories".

I have read this telegram just to point out to the House the view put forward to the effect that even in cases where the production is made on a ten-acre or below a ten-acre basis, the salt produced may be subject to the same cess as is levied on licensed salt.

Before proceeding further, I would like to refer to one observation which is found in the Administration Report of the Ministry, for the year 1952-53. On page 29 of that Report, it has been stated:

> "The quality of this production, however, leaves much to be desired. But owing to inadequacy of staff, it is not practicable to exercise any check on it, though under the above Press Note, the only restriction that has been placed is that the salt produced by such unlicensed manufacturers should be of standard quality."

It is a confession of the fact that Government have not been able properly to safeguard the quality of the salt that is manufactured. I regret to state that this is not a happy state of affairs. It is a well-known fact that improvement in the quality of salt will have an intimate bearing on human health. I read a news item in yesterday's papers to the effect that Government have fixed a minimum standard for salt for human consumption. It reads as follows:

> "*Standard of Salt for Human Consumption*
>
> The Government of India has fixed the minimum standard for salt for human consumption in 1953 at 94 per cent. sodium chloride content. In practice, however, the percentage enforced was 93:5, as fractions of 0:5 and above, over 93·5 were treated as equivalent to one, and the total as 94. It was intended that the percentage to be enforced for 1954 should be 95. Complaints about the hardships caused to the manufacturers, as a result of the standard fixed, have, however, been received, and

[Shri A. M. Thomas]

> it has been urged by some of them that a lower standard should be prescribed. After a very careful consideration of the representations that have been made by the salt manufacturers and their associations, the Government of India have decided to maintain the minimum standard for salt for human consumption in 1954 at 94 per cent. sodium chloride content, without any allowance for fractions between 93·5 and 94 per cent."

It is gratifying to note that Government are not satisfied with that position, for the Press Note adds:

> "The rise over the standard fixed for 1953 thus is 0·5 per cent. only, and there is no reason why the salt manufacturers should not be able to attain the requisite standard without any hardship. The Government's aim, it may be reiterated, still remains the attainment of the standard of 96 per cent. sodium chloride content for salt for human consumption at the earliest, and this temporary relaxation allowed as a special case, does not affect that objective. The manufacturers would therefore be well advised to make necessary arrangements for improving their production, with a view to attaining this standard in the near future."

I simply referred to this press note on account of the fact that the quality that we maintain is far from satisfactory. Especially since we have reached a position when we are able to export salt to foreign countries it is all the more necessary that we should devote greater attention to quality control, both in respect of the salt meant for internal consumption as well as that meant for export. From the figures relating to salt production, it will be seen that the unlicensed quantity of salt manufactured in the country is not an insignificant one.

I heard with great pleasure the observations made by the hon. Minister in regard to the future programme of work. He stated that it is intended to open certain research farms, and he referred to the intention to open a research farm in a particular place. There was an idea to open a research station in Travancore-Cochin which is also one of the States that produces salt for the country's consumption as well as for export. I would like to know what exactly is the state of affairs in regard to this contemplated research farm in Travancore-Cochin.

In this connection, it is good to recall the measures that Government have in view. These are laid down in clause 4 of the Bill, and are as follows:

> "(i) the establishment and maintenance of research stations and model salt farms;
>
> (ii) the establishment, maintenance and expansion of salt factories;
>
> (iii) fixing the grades of salt;
>
> (iv) promoting and encouraging co-operative effort among manufacturers of salt; and
>
> (v) promoting the welfare of labour employed in the salt industry."

In the course of his speech, the hon. Minister was pleased to refer to the levy of such cess under the Rubber Act, the Tea Act, the Coffee Act, the Central Arecanut Committee Act, and the Central Coconut Committee and similar enactments. Since the hon. Minister referred to these, I would like to know why a similar Bill could not have been brought to constitute a salt board or committee, on the lines of the various commodity committees that the Central Government have at present. If that could be done, the organisation and management of the salt industry could be more efficient, since a body constituted under a statutory enactment will be more flexible, more autonomous, and will be in a position to deal with the problems of the industry in a freer manner than is possible in the case of an advisory committee, which the Government have at present. Having regard to the food value of salt, and the importance of the salt industry, I would suggest, though it may not be possible to rectify at this stage, that the object should be to constitute a central salt committee or board on the lines of the various commodity committees which we have at present.

I do not want to take any more time of the House. We have to congratulate ourselves on the remarkable achievement that we have had in the case of the salt industry in the post independence period, and I take this opportunity also for congratulating Government on the progress that has been made in this respect.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill, for I feel that it has been long overdue. Though the cess has been levied and collected in some other form under the Central Excise Act, it is now being regularised in this Bill, and this has given an opportunity for the House to focus its attention on salt manufacture, and the development of the salt industry.

The Salt Expert Committee report was published three years back in 1950, and yet the Government have not come forward with their remarks on the recommendations made in the report. Just now we heard from the Minister a running commentary on the observations of the report, but we would have certainly liked a clearer and more detailed review of the Government on that report.

Shri K. C. Reddy: On a different occasion.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): From your own side, not from our side.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Because it has recommended so many things which require the greatest scrutiny both by the House and certainly by the Government. I take it that the Government would give us an assurance of giving an opportunity to the House on a later occasion to examine it and discuss it.

We have known, and we have also learnt from the hon. Minister, that there has been a steady increase in the output of salt manufactured in India; but if an efficient administration had been allowed to grow, perhaps there would have been a more rapid advance in the output of salt in India. As it is, the old methods are being followed and we cannot see to what extent the more efficient methods have been introduced. I am sure the experience and the good reputation and perspective of our Minister in charge of Production will be able to solve these questions much more quickly than hitherto. I refer to the question of inefficiency in certain branches of this department and the existence of a state of corruption in most cases, especially in the lower rungs of the administrative machinery. It has been the experience of manufacturers in certain cases that they are subjected to certain indignities, a certain amount of coercion, and perhaps the cure was there always whenever they were able to find some need of appeasing the appetite of the lower officials. I would only wish that the officers at the Centre should see through these things much more clearly and quickly and I would ask them to see through their own eyes, to hear through their own ears and use their own wisdom in coming to certain conclusions regarding the administration. And I hope the efficient administration and reputation of the hon. Minister would stand in good stead to improve the situation in this respect.

The question of having a minimum sodium chloride content in manufactured salt has, of late, been the headache of the department. It is probably due to the fact that the Government have not had enough control over the production process and as such, the manufacturer is put to great disadvantage and the Government are not able to understand where the trouble arises. The present process of testing the sodium chloride content in salt is very peculiar. They

[Shri Ramchandra Reddi]

take a handful from each heap, mix them together and then reduce them to a few handfuls and put it in a bottle and send it for test in a laboratory somewhere. There they find that the sodium chloride content is lower than a particular percentage. That shows that the products, good, bad and indifferent, are combined together, and they test the combined product with the result that the actual content in each heap is not found out. Therefore, it works a great hardship on the manufacturers in most of the coastal districts. I would only suggest that a testing laboratory should be located at each factory so that each heap might be taken into consideration, the contents tested and the results found more correctly than today. The Government naturally would feel that they have to spend a lot of money over these laboratories. My simple suggestion is that each factory might be asked to set up their own laboratory by a small contribution from themselves. In the beginning the Government might advance the capital, set up the laboratory and work it and in due course of time the required money for that purpose might be collected from the manufacturers. It seems to be the only way in which the manufacturers' satisfaction can be effected; otherwise, the present method of checking the sodium chloride content does not seem to be very efficient; on the other hand, it has become a source of constant headache to the Government.

I am glad, Sir, that the principle of taxing salt has been finally approved by the Government. On earlier occasions, I had pointed out the need for taxing salt because it would augment our revenues and it would go a great way to reduce our deficit.

Shri K. C. Reddy: May I just intervene on a point, Sir? There is no departure in policy so far as this measure is concerned. It is not as if the Government are accepting now for the first time a new principle and launching on a policy of taxation on salt. I submit that would create a wrong impression. The salt duty was abolished and it has been the policy of Government not to revive it. When that duty was abolished, a cess however was levied simultaneously—a sort of service cess, if I may say so—and that is being done under the authority of a rule under a certain Act. What we propose to do now is to put it on a statutory basis.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I know and I quite realise it. But I say that the difference is between Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Anyhow salt is taxed now and we cannot go back or get away from the fact that the salt tax has to be paid in some other form. No doubt, the political delicacies are there. I appreciate them. But we have now come to a position when political delicacies have to be given up, and face facts. Economically it is not unsound to tax salt and get as much revenue as possible, because the manufacturer is not going to be adversely affected by it and the consumer also is not going to be badly affected. If there are any political sentiments, I am not going to say anything against that.

But, one baneful effect that the Gandhi-Irwin Pact has brought upon the manufacture and production of salt is that a number of unlicensed manufacturers have come into the picture and they are producing very large quantities of salt. Nobody knows whether they contain the required sodium chloride or not and nobody has got a check upon them and no one has tested the salt so produced. At the same time, it is entering the human stomachs with all the deficiency of sodium chloride content in it and Government has not come to check it so far.

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): It may contain even more percentage.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Probably that is a statement not supported by laboratory tests.

I want to invite your attention to the definition clause, where a "private salt factory" is defined. The definition is not complete or comprehensive. We do not know whether this private salt factory covers the cases of those unlicensed producers who are flourishing every day. This unlicensed salt has not been taxed all along and they stand at a great advantage compared with the licensed salt with the result that a rivalry is going on between the two kinds of manufacturers. But, anyhow, the encouragement given, directly or indirectly, to the unlicensed salt manufacturer seems to hit the very principle of control of salt production under good conditions. It also encourages unnecessarily a competition with the manufacturers who are licensed and who are under the control and direction of the Government.

In regard to the application of the proceeds of the cess, I have to point out that in all such legislation the proceeds are put into the Consolidated Fund of India and then spent by appropriation. In several other sectors, the cess that has been collected has been utilised in that manner. Even in regard to certain legislation which provided for amenities to be afforded to the labour, it is a sólid fact that such fund has been put into the Consolidated Fund of India. What I would now suggest is that out of this collection, since a provision has been made for the promotion of the welfare of labour employed in the salt industry, all that money you can afford to spend upon labour welfare might be set apart and treated as a separate fund, non-lapsable, so that whenever there is an opportunity or necessity for spending money for the sake of labour, it might be taken from that Fund and spent, without much difficulty. If that Fund is invested in good investments, interest-bearing investments, it will go a great way to augment that Fund and the labour will be more benefited that way.

I have known, Sir, of certain cases where the Fund has not been placed in separate investments and interest earned thereby. I would refer to the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Cess Fund which was created mainly for the mica mine labour. It has now an accumulation of nearly 80 or 85 lakhs of rupees. If that amount had been placed in interest-yielding securities, it would have fetched an annual income of 3 to 4 lakhs by way of interest. That, unfortunately, has not been done and today Government would say that the Act does not permit it, and, therefore, they have not thought of placing it in a separate Fund. Now, an opportunity has come to me to point out that a similar state of affairs should not be allowed to be repeated in regard to this Fund and, to the extent to which it is going to be allotted for labour welfare, it must be placed separately and not amalgamated with the Consolidated Fund of India.

Sir, one of the items to which this Cess Fund will be applied is for promoting and encouraging co-operative effort among the manufacturers of salt. This requires a special interest on the part of the Government. Now, a large number of small producers are coming into existence and they require financial help from time to time. Further, this is a seasonal industry and, in the off-season, it requires some little help to the manufacturers who would do it on a co-operative basis. I, therefore, suggest that separate sums of money from this Cess should be allotted for these two categories and be made available as non-lapsable funds.

The Salt Experts Committee has not dealt with the question of developing other industries in India, which have salt as their base. It is therefore necessary that the Government should appoint a small Committee of Experts to go also into that question of the better utilisation of the surplus salt of this country. No doubt, Japan would maintain its demand for some time longer, but we have to find out other methods of utilisation of our salt for our own purposes. For instance, the caustic soda industry is one which requires a lot of salt. Our capacity in India today seems to be about 17,000

[Shri Ramachandra Reddi)]

tons a year and we are importing about 25,000 tons every year, as noticed from the figures of 1952-53. If factories for the production of caustic soda are also established in India it will go a great way to improve our dollar position and our internal consumption would be met by our own production. I would, therefore, suggest that this industry should be looked into from that production point of view and also the national requirements point of view. There are other by-products that could be developed very easily, namely, ammonium bicarbonate, sodium sulphide and other sodium varieties, mag. sulph., soda bicarb and so on and so forth. This arrangement has to be gone into and I only suggest that the Government might appoint a Committee consisting of one or two experts who will go into this question and report about the feasibility of developing these industries in this country, to the best advantage of the consumers in this country.

At present, Sir, there is what is called the zonal system. This zonal system was evidently established with a view to effect supply to several zones in a proper and equitable manner. But, when we are able to produce more than our own requirements, the existence or continuance of the zonal system does not seem to be necessary. It is therefore, advisable that the question of abolishing the zonal system should be looked into and the question of reservation of stocks will also have to be revised. Today, I think, about one-fourth or one-fifth of the quantity in each factory is being reserved under compulsion, though such reservation does not now seem to be very necessary. This matter requires some consideration and, on re-consideration, the reservation of stocks will have to be done away with or its rigours will have to be modified.

As usual, Sir, in this legislation also, the Central Government makes the rules and they are published in the official gazette. I would suggest that these rules, though they are published in the official gazette, should be placed on the Table of the House, so that opportunities might be taken by the House to examine the rules and suggest improvement.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Before they are finalised or after they are finalised?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Before they are finalised.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Before they are published.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They are published in the Gazette.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: The suggestion being that if they are placed on the Table of the House, an opportunity would occur for the House for a debate.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Subsequently they may be modified.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The House will have to sit for more than one year if all the rules were to be published in that way.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Today, the manufacturers have to find markets in this country and elsewhere. An efficient marketing organisation might be established and necessary rules framed for the same, so that the marketing organisation might find out the markets for specific qualities and quantities of salt required internally. Every zone or region will have its own taste. I was amazed to hear from the manufacturers that Hyderabad requires black salt. How they ask for black salt is not known, but their tastes have also to be corrected and they might be encouraged to buy crystal salt. If a marketing officer is appointed with a suitable establishment, he can go round the country and find out where the markets are and which markets will consume which qualities of salt produced in particular localities.

I have one more suggestion to make. In the course of our normal legislation, we find always the statement of objects and reasons published. I have known that in England the statement of objects and reasons is not attached to the Bill. I have no complaint against this statement being attached to every Bill in this country, but I would suggest that the statement should be more clear and less misleading. As it is, we have got only a few lines here in this statement, which is likely to mislead that this Bill is a very innocuous Bill and that there is nothing there to be corrected or improved upon. If we cannot completely remove the statement of objects and reasons, I would suggest that at least the words "and reasons" might be removed, because we have got only objects and very few reasons in normal legislation.

In the end, Sir, I would ask the Minister why a differential treatment is given to "private manufacturers" as against "public manufacturers" and why the private manufacturers should be levied a lesser cess than the other manufacturers is not known. Is it a prize or present given to them for not manufacturing salt efficiently and up-to the standard or is it a concession given to them for other than economic reasons? I would request the hon. Minister to clarify that point also before this particular matter is put to vote.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I come from a maritime province with a long coastline, with a rich tradition for salt manufacture, with a large number of establishments, big and small, functioning even today, with the result that my interest in this Bill may be taken to be rather intimate and pressing. Sir, I welcome this Bill frankly, because it puts on a statutory basis certain rules and regulations under the relevant section of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. From the Financial Memorandum, you will see that it is expected to collect Rs. 95 lakhs from the cess imposed, of which Rs. 40 lakhs is stated to be the expenditure on the salt organisation, and the balance of Rs. 55 lakhs is to be devoted towards the promotion and improvement of salt production in this country, not only with a view to making this country self-sufficient but also to have an exportable surplus of some substance.

I have listened with great respect to my hon. friend, Mr. Ramachandra Reddi, who comes from my own part of the country, and in view of certain provisions made in Section 4 and Section 6 of this Bill, I propose, with your permission and with the permission of the House, to disagree with most of what he said, especially with regard to manufacture rather production of salt. Let the House not run away with the impression that there are huge factories all along the coastline to the East and to the West, with lots of machinery and so on and so forth to ensure a greater sodium content, better quality etc. What happens in salt production is only whether it is the big fish or the small fish that produces it. I will presently show you a concrete case, a case which will clinch the issue insofar as Section 4(b)(iv) and section 6(2)(e)(ii) of the Bill are concerned. I have said earlier that Rs. 55 lakhs are sought to be spent towards the improvement of salt production. As I said earlier 'manufacture' is not the word but 'production' is the word. Let us see these two important sections. Section 4(b)(iv) says—

> "promoting and encouraging co-operative effort among manufacturers of salt".

Section 4(b)(v) says—

> "promoting the welfare of labour employed in the salt industry".

If you compare these with section 6(2)(e)(ii) which says—

> "in respect of salt manufactured by any specified categories of small manufacturers;"

[Dr. Lanka Sundaram]

you will appreciate what I say. I can look back with 25 or 30 years of experience, and Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you are no doubt familiar with the coastline of our parts—the coastline extends over a distance of 700 miles, and everywhere the small producer of salt is pushed out of existence, thanks largely to the manner in which the Salt Administration has invited tenders and allotted tenders or rather accepted tenders, with the result that the object declared here in the Bill, to my mind, will not be fulfilled unless and until the Government of India ensures that this co-operative approach of salt manufacture is properly solved.

Here, Sir, I have got a concrete case to show you, but I do not wish to waste the time of the House, which is very much interested in the Motion regarding Preventive Detention Act which is coming next. In my town, Visakhapatnam, there were 280 salt producing families who had been given a copper grant to the temple of Simhachalam in the year 1712, and who were in possession of this particular productive activity in that area for 210 years, until one fine morning the Bengal Nagpur Railway wanted to acquire the area for the construction of the harbour. I quite concede that in public interest acquisition was necessary, but I want this House to remember what exactly happened immediately after. For a period of thirty years, these people who were forcibly obliged to sell their land without compensation, had their occupancy rights and other rights destroyed. They were left out. And, suddenly, two years ago, the Vizagapatam Port Administration did not find any use for this particular salt producing area, involving in all 1,100 acres. And it so happened that one fine morning, tenders were invited and the highest bidder was given the bid. I have got the figures, and other facts here with me. I would like to examine here one or two points made by my friend, the hon. Minister while introducing the Bill. He referred to the question of getting the costs down and the prices down, and so on and so forth. Here are the comparable figures, and to the best of my knowledge and belief this is the position. In the most important salt pan called Naupada, a *sist* of Rs. 1 to 3 'per acre is charged and here, in Vishakapatnam, two and a half years ago, Rs. 33 an acre were charged. In addition, Sir, I want the hon. Minister to contradict me if I am wrong—I am speaking with the best of motives and with such information as I could acquire in this matter—a sum of Rs. 1,10,000 as *nazrana* was taken from the tenderer who got this salt concession. 450 out of 1,100 acres were rendered surplus to the requirements of the Port Administration, and in between these thirty years,—I have got the personal affidavits of the persons concerned, Mr. Deputy-Speaker—these families were thrown out. I have got their written representation. I have with me here the complete petition, including the copper grant of the Simhachalam deity, under whose patronage they were doing all these things. I am directing my point, Sir, to the reference made by my hon. friend Shri Ramachandra Reddy. Section 4(b)(iv) and (v) will become inoperative and infructuous unless and until this question of the small manufacturer is properly solved. Here I have got three documents, and I wish to read them out to show the manner in which the small man is squeezed out of existence, and the socalled manufacturer of salt comes in on a monopoly basis. I would like to say that south of my city, Vishakapatnam....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Are you going into the general policy of the matter?

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I am explaining, because to my mind, sections 4(b)(iv) and 6(2)(e)(ii) refer to the "promoting and encouraging co-operative effort among manufacturers of salt;" and "in respect of salt manufactured by any specified categories of small manufacturers". I am not taking the time of the House, because I shall be very brief on this issue. This is a very important point and I should like to know what meaning they are going to give to these sections when implementing this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: As I understand, the question of policy as to whether any taxes are to be imposed or not, is one that has been settled during the budget session. It is not the occasion now to refer to it. As to the other point—licensees, etc.,—under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, they shall be allowed to carry on manufacture of salt. That is an accepted policy which ought not to be disturbed now. Therefore, the scope of this Bill is whether there is any necessity or no necessity for imposing the cess, and whether there is any differentiation, and how the cess is to be collected, and what is the purpose, etc. Therefore, though Mr. Ramachandra Reddi might have gone into the whole matter saying that one is trying to do away with the other, and so on, his point need not be replied to.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I will be very brief. Here is the letter addressed to me by the Port Administrative Officer, Vizagapatam, dated 14th February, 1952, and it says:

> "From the technical point of view of salt manufacture, it is not now possible nor economical, to have numerous licensees as common canals and ponds and bunds, platforms, etc., are non-existent."

The burden of my point is, even under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, when the small producer was sought to be encouraged,—here is the letter, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, where monopolies are sought to be created, as I have said earlier, whereby a particular tenderer who was favoured with this contract got the contract by paying the *nazrana*. This tenderer is known to me. He has got a salt factory at a place nine miles south of the city. Now that the land has become surplus, the poor people must be given back the land on occupancy and other rights. I would ask my hon. friend to contradict me if I am wrong. Up till now, salt was not manufactured within these two years by this tenderer who got this contract after paying a *nazrana* of Rs. 1,10,000. and who simply had succeeded in shutting out the hereditary people who were living there for thirty years. I feel it is a very important point, Sir, that these two provisions of this Bill must be carried out. Otherwise, it stands as a dead letter, and it is no consequence to this country. Here is the Government of India's letter—Ministry of Railways (Railway Board), dated 9th August, 1952: from Mr. Vasist:

> "The lease under reference was acquired by the Vizagapatam Port authorities for the development of the harbour. At the instance of the then Ministry of Industries and Supply, it was agreed to lease out the western portion of the land, measuring 330 acres, for salt manufacture for a period of ten years, in the first instance, as this portion was not likely to be required for any port development scheme during this period."

I request you to notice this fact: this monopoly is granted for a period of ten years, even though, under the terms, the tenderer's rights can be extinguished within one year.

I think I have riveted the attention of the House sufficiently to this point. Every acre goes to the development of monopoly, to the development of what you call cornering of the productive possibilities of all available land in the local area, with the result that the small man and the cooperative unit are completely squeezed out of existence. Finally, I want the House to remember this particular case, the very sad case—a very longstanding case of 30 years, which clearly indicates the point that these people have come forward to, and begged to form a cooperative unit to run the salt pans in which they were engaged for 210 years. As I said earlier, they are prevented from doing so. I would request the hon. Minister—of course he was not responsible for what happened then, because he took over later and the occurrences that I have referred to happened earlier—to

[Dr. Lanka Sundaram]

investigate this matter and do justice. I am sure he will not grudge with me on this point. This Bill will be inoperative; small manufacturers will not be there; cooperative units will not come into existence; and these 55 lakhs of rupees, which the Government are going to draw as a surplus after the expenditure on the services are met, will be, what you call, "spent for the benefit of," shall we say, the bigger fry.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the cess levied on salt hitherto has been under the provisions of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. Without going into the details of the levy and the other problems connected with it, I should like to restrict my observations within the scope of this Bill.

Sir, in this Bill, it is said in the Financial Memorandum, that a sum of Rs. 95 lakhs is proposed to be collected under the existing rates of cess and it is sought to be given statutory authority. Out of this sum, only Rs. 40 lakhs are necessary for the administrative purposes. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that so long as this sum is spent on administrative purposes, what has been done with the rest—Rs. 55 lakhs. As far as I can remember, the hon. Minister said the other day that we are in a position, either immediately or in the near future, to export salt and he has also said this morning that we have been able to establish a research institute at Bhavnagar. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Minister has said that this Bill is necessary because we must have statutory authority to spend the surplus money that we might have after defraying the expenditure for maintaining the administration. Sir, I would like to emphasize that unless the Government is sure of its policy as to the manner in which this Rs. 55 lakhs that may be surplus after defraying expenditure on administration, is spent, there is no point in putting that in the statute. In his introductory speech, the hon. Minister referred to the Coalmines Welfare Board and similar bodies. We know, Sir, the other day the Minister of Labour replied to one of the questions, that in some areas only Rs. 14 lakhs has been set apart for the development of the miners in the coal area and that nothing has yet been done with the money and accumulation apart from a scheme to have a welfare centre for one of the schools. Therefore, unless the Government is seriously thinking over the development of labour or the promotion of co-operative spirit among the small manufacturers, there is no point in having this provision in the Bill. Therefore the emphasis that I lay today is on the fact that Government must have a clear idea as to the manner in which the money should be spent so that in the next budget session, there will be no more occasion when, by setting apart some money, there will be nothing known about its proper expenditure.

4 P.M.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of labour welfare. I suggest a good portion of this money should be spent on the welfare of labour. The other day one of my hon. friends was telling me that in a large area in Travancore-Cochin State there was some disturbance and the labourers had to suffer: Government did not come forward with any kind of help, either financial or otherwise. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that if they are serious about working the provisions of Clause 4 of this Bill, they must immediately lay down their policy and have a regular plan of their own.

Sir, the hon. Minister himself has admitted that in spite of the abolition of the salt duty the price of salt has not gone down. He tried to make that this is due to other factors like increase in labour costs, and not due to the activities of monopolists who pay high rents for the lease of salt producing areas. Sir, as is very well known, salt has a sentimental value for us, because our national movement was based on it. Salt is one of the most important human necessities, and high hopes were raised that as soon as a national Government came into power, its price would be reduced. Of course some money has to be paid to meet the cost of manufacture, or the improvement of the condition of the people working in it.

My hon. friend Dr. Lanka Sundaram has pointed out the activities of monopolists who earn fabalous rents. This tendency must be checked; otherwise there is no chance of survival of the small producers. The hon. Minister pointed out that it would be one of their endeavours to encourage cooperate effort on the part of small producers. In a number of areas spread throughout the country there are a large number of these small scale manufacturers of salt. But they are not able to stand competition from monopolists and unless some concerted action is taken they will be wiped out.

There has been a spate of criticism by the producers about the administration in the matter of granting licences and grading of salt. I have certain representations made to us in this respect. It may not be true all over the country. But it is a fact that the administration of this branch has not been very efficient. It is a matter of common knowledge that our process of manufacture of salt is neither modernised, nor up-to-date. Therefore the quality of salt that is manufactured varies from year to year, or season to season and from area to area. Now that a statutory body is going to be set up, it should take early steps to lay down a uniform policy in the matter of granting licences and also grading salt.

Before I conclude I have to emphasise one point. A good portion of the money that is going to be collected should be devoted to improve the quality of the salt that is manufactured. The hon. Minister said that we have now reached a stage when we are in a position to export salt. But we cannot have a good foreign market unless the quality of our salt is improved.

Salt is not only an important ingredient of human diet, but also one of the basic raw materials of many of our chemical industries. So, any amount spent for the improvement of this basic raw material will be a step in the direction of industrialisation of our country.

In the matter of labour welfare Government should have a positive scheme in view. They should not allow, as they have done in the case of the Coal Mines Board and the Mica Board, the money collected to lie idle.

Shri Kasliwal (Kotah-Jhalawar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am impelled to speak on this measure, because just as my learned friend Dr. Lanka Sundaram said that he came from a maritime State, I come from a State which has the biggest salt works in our land, that is the Sambhar works, in Rajasthan. Some mention has been made here of a Committee which was appointed in 1948, which came to be known as the Salt Experts Committee. That Committee was appointed with comprehensive terms of reference and they submitted an exhaustive report in 1950. They have made a large number of recommendations, some of which have been referred to here. I only want to refer to one important recommendation of theirs.

The Committee had stated that the entire administration of salt was in a bad state. They suggested that the production, consumption and distribution of salt should be rationalised and with that end in view they suggested the constitution of a statutory corporation, in which the Government of India, the Government of Rajasthan and the salt industry should be associated. They had gone into this question very thoroughly and I would like, Mr. Deputy Speaker, just to read one or two sentences from that valuable report. In page 378, the Committee say:

> "Taking all these factors into consideration, they have come to the conclusion that a more satisfactory control and supervision of these works, as also their further development would be best achiev-

[Shri Kasliwal]

> ed if they were entrusted to a statutory corporation to be created for this purpose, to whom the entire responsibility of production, development and distribution of salt and the by-productions should be handed over.
>
> The Corporation may be jointly financed or owned by the Government of India and the Rajasthan Union. The former should have a predominantly larger share in view of their having invested considerable capital in the Rajputana Works and bringing under the control of the corporation the works at Kharagoda in which the Rajasthan Government have also some vested interest."

Without taking any more time of the House I would only enquire of the hon. Minister as to why this particular recommendation of the Salt Experts Committee has not been implemented, and whether Government at all propose to implement it?

Kumari Annie Mascarene (Trivandrum): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, the Bill that is before the House, Sir, is rather amusing. Sir, I come from a constituency pickled in salt, and the thousands and thousands of voters who sent me over here have just made a request to me; "At least give us free salt during your service in the legislature."

An Hon. Member: You have the power?

Kumari Annie Mascarene: It is not in my power. I know in whose hands the power is. I request that the wishes of the people not only of my constituency but of Travancore-Cochin State may be fulfilled.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member was a Minister.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: Of Health, not Salt, Sir.

I agree with the principle of this Bill as a sincere attempt to develop the indigenous industry of salt and satisfy the needs of the country. This ought to have been done long ago. I do not think there will be a single Member in this House who can disagree with that principle. But what I object to is the taxing part of the Bill. My objection is on the ground that you are taxing a necessary of life, and taxing a necessary of life ought to be condemned no matter by which government it is done.

Sir, it is an unjustifiable tax imposed by a government which can trace a glorious past when the revered Father of India in company with his highly esteemed disciples led a satyagraha movement against this very inequitous tax, in their own words, on behalf of the common man, to satisfy the common need of common salt, which movement had shaken the very foundations of the imperialists, crushed their monopoly of salt and raised a canopy of shelter for millions to take refuge under its shade and languish for freedom and independence. It is an irony of fate, Sir, that those very moralists should have ushered on the forum of this House a Bill to justify a tax, to give statutory basis to a tax within a decade or two before the sacred memory of that august resolution can die into the oblivion.

Whatever be the justification of this Bill, I firmly believe that the Government today is in a position to develop this indigenous industry without imposing this nominal tax to collect an amount of Rs. 95 lakhs. I am therefore constrained to view this Bill as the most unkindest cut of levying a tax on a necessary of life, an indispensable article of food, as necessary as air and water for human existence.

Acharya Kripalani (Bhagalpur *cum* Purnea): They will also be taxed!

Kumari Annie Mascarene: I did not hear what was said.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Hazaribagh West): That will come.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: At the rate you sit quiet you deserve a poll tax also!

This tax had an eventful past, had roused many an emotional eloquence in this very House by patriots and lovers of humanity, had gone through monopolies, committees, reports of considerable magnitude and serious consideration, and has now passed into the sacred trust of the hands of the sons of the soil.

The consumption of salt by the common man, my friend on this side said, is just a small amount, say, amounting to one-twentieth of an anna. I wish to tell my honoured friend that the consumption of salt is not confined to the common man alone. It is of great importance, of unique importance in a State like India which has certain drawbacks. A poor country like ours, living on starch or rice requires a higher percentage of salt *per capita* in order to retain or build up a healthy and hygienic constitution, unlike a man in the temperate region.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Should we go into the general incidence of Salt duty? Everybody understands that.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: That is why I want to impress upon the Government, here is a tax imposed on the poor man, who has to pay a heavier tax than his rich brother who is getting a relief on that account, because the poor man. is completely living on starch. Besides being an essential element of food, salt is also used for agricultural purposes. Salt is used by animals, by cattle. .Salt is used by industries. And salt is used in several ways to keep up life and business throughout the world. In our country cattle rearing requires salt. The heavy imposition of salt tax during the British rule in Bengal, I am told, had a repercussion in the diminutive size of the animals. Our industry is today nothing but applied chemistry. And chemicals like sodium, hydrochloric acid and chloride, all these are in essence salt and form the bulk of our trade and commerce. During the British period the question of importation of salt had been debated in this House and the indigenous manufacture of salt had been a moot question. Though I appreciate the principle of this Bill I regret to point out that this is the last straw to break the camel's back.

The burden of taxation is increasing daily. In this very House we have been passing many Bills imposing cess on this and cess on that, during this session and during the last session. It is over and above the proposals of the Budget. So I wish to tell the Finance Minister... (*An hon. Member*: He is not here). He will not be here when such questions come up. So I wish to tell him that it is not an equitable distribution of national income that for an indigenous industry like this to be developed a tax has to be imposed on the common man. That goes to the very dregs of society and affects its subsistence itself. Such a tax on a necessity of life is justifiable in times of strain like war or development of irrigation canals, communication Railways etc. But, now it is time of peace and the distribution of the income of the nation should be so done as to develop this industry without imposing a tax.

I would request the Government to nationalise this industry completely without giving at partial share of the tax to the private sector. We have had experience of investing money in the private sector and it being utilised by the private sector for profiteering. They complain of no finance. But, what about the waste that is going on in this country. It is only the other day the Food Minister told us that implements completely useless are got down from the U.K. and U.S.A. and are still there waiting to be used. So much of money is being wasted this way and that. Instead of imposing more and more taxes on the people and making the burden of taxation heavier daily, I say that the Government should so economise the top-heavy administration that this tax may be avoided and the poor man given some relief. Nationalisation of this industry is most desirable at this juncture. It is true that perhaps the poor man will be willing to pay a tax imposed by the Government at this time to develop the industry. But, when once the industry is developed, he is expecting tax-free salt.

[Kumari Annie Mascarene]

With these words, I oppose the tax levy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Seth Achal Singh. Then, I will call the hon. Minister.

सेठ अचल सिंह (जिला आगरा––पश्चिम) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, नमक जीवन की आवश्यकताओं के लिये एक बहुत जरूरी वस्तु है । नमक के ऊपर अंग्रेजी गवर्नमेन्ट ने एक्साइज ड्यूटी लगा रक्खी थी । उसके वास्ते महात्मा जी ने सन् १९३० में आन्दोलन शुरु किया, इसलिये कि नमक पर जो एक्साइज ड्यूटी लग रही है वह गलत है क्योंकि नमक की जरूरत हर आदमी को होती है और उस पर एक्साइज नहीं होना चाहिये । चुनांचे जैसे ही १९४७ में हमारा देश स्वतंत्र हुआ तो हमारे नेताओं ने, हमारी गवर्नमेन्ट ने इस एक्साइज ड्यूटी को हटा दिया, लेकिन अफसोस इस बात का है कि नमक की एक्साइज ड्यूटी हटाने के बाद नमक जितना सस्ता होना चाहिये था उतना सस्ता नहीं हुआ ?।

[PANDIT THAKUR DASS BHARGAVA *in the Chair*]

आज कल भी नमक तीन, चार रुपया मन बिकता है जब कि उस को डेढ़ या दो रुपया मन बिकना चाहिये । यह चीज हर इंसान के लिये जरूरी है और इस का असर हर गरीब व अमीर पर पड़ता है ।

साथ ही में यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारी सेन्ट्रेल गवर्नमेन्ट ने नमक के ऊपर हर तरह की छूट दी है । लेकिन खेद का विषय है कि बहुत से प्रान्तों नें इस पर कन्ट्रोल लगा रक्खा है, जहां व्यापारियों को इसकी मनोपोली दे रक्खी है और वे मनमाने भाव से बेचते हैं और फायदा उठाते हैं । इस लिये इस बात पर भी गौर करना बहुत जरूरी है ।

इस के साथ ही मेरा यह सुझाव है कि जो सेस लिया जा रहा है साढ़े तीन आने और दो आने मन के हिसाब से, उससे करीब ४५ लाख रुपये की आमद होगी । आज कल कई प्रकार का नमक मिलता है जैसे खेवड़ा, सांभर, पंचभद्रा और समुद्री उस में बहुत खराबियां होती हैं और उनसे जनता को सहत के ऊपर बहुत बुरा असर पड़ता है । इस लिये जहां जहां काफी तादाद में नमक बनता है वहां वहां इस रुपये से लेबोरेटरियां खोलनी चाहियें और उन में नमक का टेस्ट होने के बाद उसको काम में लाने के लिये दिया जाय, जिस से जनता को सेहत पर इसका बुरा असर न पड़े ।

इसके साथ हो एक बोर्ड होना चाहिये जिसमें पार्लियामेन्ट के मेम्बर हों जो कि इस बात को देखते रहें कि जो करीब ४५ लाख रुपया नमक के सेस के रूप में लिया जायगा उस को जनता के हित में खर्च किया जाय । जो लोग नमक के उत्पादन में काम करते हैं, मजदूर लोग हैं और दूसरे लोग, उन की सेहत, रहन सहन का भी ध्यान रखना चाहिये जिस से उस में काम करने वालों की सेहत अच्छी रहे ।

यह बिल बहुत उपयोगी है, इस से हमारे हर एक आदमी को फायदा पहुंचेगा । खुशकिस्मती की बात है कि आज हमारे मुल्क में जितने नमक की जरूरत है उससे ज्यादा हम पैदा कर लेते हैं । हमारे यहां करीब साढ़े आठ सो लाख मन नमक पैदा होता है जितने की कि हम को जरूरत नहीं है । हमारी सरकार को चाहिये कि एक बोर्ड बना दे और लेबोरेटरी बना दे जिस से जो नमक बने वह अच्छा बने । साथ ही साथ जो मनोपोली स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट को दे रक्खी है वह भी खत्म हो जाय और जनता को सस्ता नमक मिल सके ।

मैं समझता हूं कि नमक जनता की जरूरत की चीज है और इस लिये में इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं।

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Minister.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Gwalior): I wanted to speak.

Mr. Chairman: I have called the hon. Minister.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I will speak for half a minute.

Mr. Chairman: All right.

Dr. N. B. Khare: Sir, you will be surprised to learn that I rise to support this Bill. The Lady Member from Travancore enlarged upon the reasons why salt should not be taxed. She said that it is one of the necessities of life. She also said that water is necessary, air is necessary, and that they are not taxed, and therefore salt should not be taxed. Sir, water is taxed as we know to our cost. Air is also taxed.

Acharya Kripalani: When the Doctor gives oxygen.

Dr. N. B. Khare: In the air-conditioned railway compartments air is taxed. She also rubbed hard this Government for being contradictory in their conduct, because previously they agitated for the abolition of the salt tax and now they are bringing this Bill. But, she forgot one thing. Formerly they were agitators; now they are administrators. There is a great difference between a person who is an agitator and one who is an administrator. She said that you have forgotten Mahatmaji, the Father of the nation and the great agitation that he led. I had the honour of taking part in that agitation and no doubt I was jailed for it. Still I say that I am for this Bill for one single reason. The time has now come when you may forget all fanciful and impractical past commitments; this will perhaps be more convenient. I support this Bill merely because it is against the tenets of Gandhism. That is all.

श्री भगवत झा: (पुर्निया व सन्थाल परगना): नया मुल्ला पांच बार नमाज पढ़ता है।

Shri K. C. Reddy: Mr. Chairman, I am very happy indeed that there has been a general welcome to this Bill. Just before my hon. friend Dr. N. B. Khare got up, I had intended to confine myself in the first instance to some remarks made by the hon. Lady Member from Travancore. She was the only Member who had the honour and distinction of having to say something very damaging about this Bill. But my hon. friend Dr. N. B. Khare came to my rescue in a way and criticised the observations of the hon. Lady Member.

Shri Algu Rai Shastri (Azamgarh Distt.—East *cum* Ballia Distt.—West): No, Sir; his reasons are different.

Mr. Chairman: It is for the hon. Minister to interpret the speech.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am afraid, so far as Dr. N. B. Khare is concerned, it is a case of "save me from my friends." In his attempt to support the Bill and to rebut the arguments advanced by the hon. Lady Member, he exhorted the Government to forget past commitments and embark on new policies. At the very outset, I want to clear the ground by saying that so far as Government is concerned, with regard to commitments and major matters of policy there is no intention to forget them or make any departure from the principles that have been closely examined and determined upon. I say this because there is a sort of impression in the mind of some that by introducing this Bill, and also that we are embarking on a new policy to levy tax on salt. I had made the point clear in the course of the debate that we are not embarking on any new policy, nor changing the policy in any respect whatsoever, not in substance, at any rate. It is only a procedural change that is being proposed. The hon. Lady Member invoked the name of the Leader of our Nation, Mahatmaji and said that we were doing something which was a violation of his memory

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

and his leadership. May I remind her what happened in the past and what was the exact content of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact? I would respectfully invite her to read the section of that Pact. The Pact merely gives the right for the manufacture of salt by the local residents in villages in areas round about that village and prescribes that the salt manufactured by the villagers should be utilised only for domestic consumption but not for trade.

Then, in 1947, the Government of India went far beyond that agreement and gave certain concessions to the people. And what were those concessions? The concessions were that in areas of ten acres and less people could manufacture salt without any licence, without being subject to any of the other restrictions or controls or rules to which licensed manufacturers would be subjected, and the salt so manufactured could be utilised not only for domestic and household consumption, i.e., their own consumption, but also for sale in other places. This was a major departure, and, if I may say so, this went a great deal beyond the terms of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. So, if the hon. lady Member were to review the past history, I am sure she will revise her opinion and will be chivalrous, if I may say so, to compliment and congratulate the Government that instead of violating the sacred memory of Gandhiji they have tried their utmost to perpetuate the memory in the best manner possible.

Acharya Kripalani: The Government will not be chivalrous?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am afraid I had to refer to it at some length because this debate is likely to create an impression of the kind I referred to early in my remarks. Not only the hon. lady Member, but immediately after this Bill was introduced, another very respected lady Member of this House was perturbed and I was asked the question whether we were trying to do something here which was in violation of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which was in violation of the measures that we had taken or the policies that we had decided upon in the past with regard to salt duty. I had to reassure her that we are doing nothing of the kind, and that we are merely trying to place on a statutory basis the collection of a cess, a very small cess, which was decided upon even at the time we abolished the salt duty as I have indicated in my introductory remarks. So, Sir, that is the limited scope of this Bill.

I am at a disadvantage in one respect. I thought the debate on this Bill would be confined merely, if I may say so, to the legal aspect and the constitutional aspect if there were any and hon. Members would not cover the entire field of administration—the Salt Administration. As usual, my hon. friend Dr. Lanka Sundaram referred to incidents and quotations from letters which he has received, and that kind of thing. He is very fond of that. He thinks he can strengthen his case by resorting to that kind of procedure.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: Try to weaken it if you can.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The major portion of his speech was confined to unearthing some events that had happened in the past and what is happening at present, and he wanted to build an edifice on those facts and quotations. Well, Sir, if he had taken the trouble to find out as to what exactly has happened in the last few years in the matter of licensing, how many small manufacturers have been given licences, to what extent the manufacture of salt has increased in these small manufacturing centres, certainly his general conclusion would have been different.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I did not draw a general conclusion. I made a reference to Clauses 4(b) (iv) and 6 (2) (e) (ii) of the Bill. How do you enforce it? Where is the co-operative movement?

Shri K. C. Reddy: In fact, I was leading to that point. By quoting that single instance he wanted to make out a case...

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: No, no.

Shri K. C. Reddy:...that the aim of improving the salt industry, of improving the manufacture of salt by small manufacturers etc., was being given the go-bye. My contention, Sir, is that generally if you review the whole Salt Administration during the past few years, you will find that those very particular purposes which have now been mentioned in the Bill have been prominently kept in view, and to some degree the objective has been fulfilled; and our policy at present is to increasingly fulfil that objective.

Regarding the particular instance that he quoted, I would like to say only this. I would like to know from the hon. Member—I will try to find it out later—whether the Railway Ministry gave any compensation to those lands that they took over from the owners. If they did give compensation, what compensation did they give to the small manufacturers from whom those lands were acquired? If they did pay compensation, as I presume they did, then if they realised any money by way of auction at the time of disposing of the land again for the manufacture of salt, certainly it would not be very wrong as a matter of policy. Also, so far as this particular instance is concerned, the hon. Member should remember that this has nothing to do with the Salt Administration as such. If the land was the property of the Railway Ministry and if they decided that it was no longer necessary for their use and wanted to sell it or lease it out by auction for salt manufacture, certainly the procedure they have adopted is not wrong. Let us remember that the Railway administration has its own responsibilities. When the Railway Budget comes up for discussion, hon. Members will naturally ask: what are the gains and losses of the Railway administration? Is it working commercially? Is it working economically? And so on and so forth. Those are the questions that are usually put. I am not trying to argue that the Railway administration should always be considered a commercial organisation. It has also its service aspect, but whenever the Railway Budget comes up, we know what kind of criticism the Railway Budget is subjected to. Against that background, if the Railways have made some money, at least on that basis the hon. Member is not right in saying that a particular policy is being followed by the Salt Administration in order to fill its coffers and forget all the while the main policy of encouraging small scale salt manufacturers.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: I only requested you to look at it from the salt angle, not from the Railway angle.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Anyway, I will leave the hon. Member at that, and I will proceed to other points because an important debate is to follow on the Preventive Detention Act. I do not want to treat hon. Members to too much of salt.

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I will give them sugar.

Shri K. C. Reddy: My hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Reddi, Mr. Thomas and other Members who spoke have referred to several aspects of the Salt Administration. I really do not know if I will be able to refer to even a few of them, much less all of them. Particularly my hon. friend Mr. Ramachandra Reddi has referred to almost all the important aspects of the Salt Administration. I would prefer dealing with some of them on a more suitable occasion, because it will not be possible for me to cover them satisfactorily now.

I would like, however, to refer to some important points. Firstly, both Mr. Ramachandra Reddi and Mr. Basu referred to certain departmental lapses. It was pointed out that whatever may be happening at the top, certain things are going on in various regions and localities where the officials are having their own way. Also in the matter of licensing, Mr. Basu pointed out that there are certain difficulties. As regards this, Sir, I will only content myself by saying that the head of the Department is naturally expected to be in constant touch with what is happening in the various regions and I have

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

every reason to believe that he is so keeping himself in touch, but in spite of all that even in the best and most efficiently run deaprtments there are bound to be certain lapses. No one can say or claim that there have been no lapses whatsoever, that the Department has worked on a perfect basis. I give this assurance that if there are any lapses that have come to the notice of the hon. Member and if he is kind enough to send them on to us, or if any lapses come to our notice by our own enquiries, then the Department will not be wanting to set those lapses right and to give a clean, efficient and satisfactory administration from the people's point of view.

Certain references were made by hon. Members regarding the important aspects of this Bill. Shri A. M. Thomas referred to one important matter, when he asked, why not set up a board as in other enactments of a similar nature. boards have been constituted; he also pointed out that we could have indicated in the Bill itself, what the constitution of the Board should be, and so on. I see the force of the argument, and I am free to confess that it has not been out of my mind. On the present occasion, we had to bring this Bill somewhat in a hurry, for we wanted to put the levy of this cess on a statutory basis, and validate what has been done during all these years, and so we had to confine ourselves to these specific clauses. It is our intention to bring in a more comprehensive Bill at a later stage, when we hope to provide for the constitution of a Board and other matters connected therewith.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi, and Shri Kasliwal referred...

Kumari Annie Mascarene: On a point of information, Sir...

Shri K. C. Reddy:...to the recommendations of the Salt Experts Committee.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: On a point of information......

Shri S. S. More: (Sholapur): He is not chivalrous enough to yield.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry if I were to be deemed to be unchivalrous, but the limitations of time are there, and so the hon. lady Member will not misunderstand me, if I do not yield.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: All right, at the end I will ask you.

Shri K. C. Reddy: A reference was made to the recommendations of the Salt Experts Committee, and it was also made to appear that we have been sleeping over those recommendations, and no action has been taken by Government, or at any rate, no satisfactory action has been taken by Government. All I want to say is that the recommendations of the Salt Experts Committee have been closely examined and considered, and decisions have been taken on several of those recommendations, and on such of those recommendations on which Government have not been able to take any action so far, it is because of certain inherent difficulties, which have got to be taken into account.

A prominent instance was given by Shri Kasliwal, who asked, why not set up a statutory corporation for the salt industry? There are difficulties in taking such a step. My hon. friend the lady Member,—whose speech, if I may say so, was entertaining, if not amusing, she characterised the Bill as amusing—I am afraid some of her remarks were amusing—also referred to nationalisation. These are very big policy matters, and at each point of time, we have to take into account, not only the desirability, in abstract, of any particular course of action, but also the practicability, and feasibility of such a step. The pragmatic view of the problem should not be lost sight of. Is it necessary now to spend our money on the nationalisation of the salt industry, or can we do something better with the money which we would have to pay, if we were to nationalise the salt industry? That is one aspect I would like to point out. Again, what are the difficulties or inconveniences that have been caused to the public, because the industry has not been nationalised?

With regard to certain major policy issues, I beg to submit that the Salt Experts Committee's recommendations have been examined, and necessary orders have been passed by Government. To the outstanding issues arising out of their recommendations, I desire to say, Government will continue to give their attention, and take such decisions as are feasible regarding them.

My hon. friend Shri Ramachandra Reddi referred to the zonal system, and asked, why should the zonal system continue, in spite of the fact that we have become self-sufficient in salt. There is plenty of salt, but there is not plenty of wagons. There is still transport difficulty, which we have to face. We have to tide over it, we have to prevent long haulages, we have to make the best use of the available wagons, and I submit that without some kind of zoning system, it will not be possible to do so. Moreover, by the adoption of this system of zoning, salt will have the benefit of preferential treatment in regard to wagon supply, in addition to the supply of wagons that may be made available on a free basis as well. If we abolish the zoning system, the priority that salt is enjoying with regard to traffic now, will disappear, and possibly there would be certain inconveniences to the salt trade thereby. I cannot go into the details, but I can tell the hon. Member that the zonal system is being maintained, because of the necessities of the situation, because circumstances warrant that such a system should still be continued.

My hon. friend Shri K. K. Basu seemed to think that export of salt will become possible in the near future, but as I said earlier, we have already been exporting since the last two years, and so the question of export is not in the womb of the future. Only we have to develop it further. Though there is overall self-sufficiency, when we take salt as a whole, we find that there are still some bottlenecks in the supply of certain kinds of salt. Take for instance, Sambar salt which is in short supply. Certain sections of people in certain States want that kind of salt, and no other. Unless we have the zonal system, and have a certain amount of control on the distribution of the available supplies of such salt, there will be difficulty, and we would have any number of complaints from the consuming public. This is another reason which has necessitated the continuance of the zonal system.

Regarding reservation of stocks, an hon. Member complained, why should we have reservation, when we have got so much of salt. My answer is that the reservation up till the other day was 25 per cent. of production. Now it has been reduced to 20 per cent., and Government are considering whether they can reduce it still further, and if so, to what extent. At their last meeting, the Salt Advisory Committee recommended that it should be reduced to somewhere between 10 to 15 per cent., and Government are giving their close attention to the matter.

A question was asked, why this differentiation between the cess on salt manufactured in private factories, and that on salt manufactured in Government factories. That was a very relevant question, to which I should give an answer. Though it is a case of Government trying to tax itself more, the difference arose like this. So far as Government salt works are concerned, they have to pay certain amounts, under what are known as treaty rights, to the erstwhile Indian States. For instance, in a state like Rajasthan, where we manufacture Sambar salt, treaty rights exist, and under these treaty rights, "royalty" payments have to be made to the State Government It is a charge which we have to take into account, and which has to be made good, in howsoever manner e.g. by a little higher cess than that on salt manufactured by private salt works. In the case of the salt that we manufacture in Government salt works,—it may be very strange, and it may be a pleasant surprise to some of my hon.

[Shri K. C. Reddy]

friends who always criticise that in State undertakings, there is more of expenditure—the cost of production is lower than that in the private salt works. So, it is susceptible of absorbing a little more taxation than the salt manufactured in private salt works. Both these considerations weighed with Government in imposing a higher cess, namely 3½ as. per standard maund, as compared with 2 as. in the case of salt manufactured in private salt factories.

In fact, Sir, I was at one time thinking why this cess should not be made uniform. In fact, I am still thinking over it and I do not know what decision we will arrive at. I can anly say this that the matter is engaging our attention. Whether we should continue to honour the treaty rights as they are now or whether they could be modified is an aspect which we have got to go into from the legal point of view and the constitutional point of view. After that is cleared, we have to consider whether this discrimination or differentiation between the cesses on Government salt and private salt should really continue. But so far as the present is concerned, we propose to continue it and that is why it finds a place in the Bill.

Another reference was made, Sir, to the need—I know hon. Members are impatient and would like to proceed to the next item on the agenda, so I want to be brief—for fostering various industries based on salt. It is not a matter which has escaped our attention. In fact, I may remind hon. Members that we are going to open a salt research station at Bhavanagar. One of the main purposes of this station will be to indicate to us in what respects and on what lines other industries round about salt could be built up. The Planning Commission have dealt with the subject. They have referred to the chemical industries that can be built round salt and it is very much in our minds that we should bring this very important part of the industrial development of our country into practice. But I want, at the same time, to point out that the caustic soda industry, to which the hon. Member referred, needs plenty of money. We have to see whether the private sector will come forward to set up this industry. If they do not come forward, then Government will have to step in. These are all matters which require sometime and some thought before we can go ahead.

Sir, another important point was made to which, if I do not refer, I think hon. Members will not be satisfied, nor will I have satisfaction. That is with regard to the utilisation of this fund. Pointed attention was drawn to the fact that we should set apart a good part of this fund for labour welfare. I really appreciate that approach to the problem. In fact, I value very greatly and understand the necessity of our doing everything that is possible in order to improve the condition of labour. It was pointed out that certain funds of a similar nature have not been utilised to the full. I do not know why it has been so, but I join with the other Members in urging that that amount should be utilised to the full and maximum facilities should be given to labour. So far as this Bill is concerned, I can assure hon. Members that as much money as possible will be set apart for the welfare of labour.

Other references were also made in this connection. I cannot go into details, but I give the undertaking that when the rules are to be framed under section 6 of this Act, we will take care to see that enough amount is set apart for labour welfare and to indicate how it should be spent.

Shri K. K. Basu: It must be utilised.

Shri K. C. Reddy: There was also a reference, Sir, to test laboratories. I do concede that there is great need for establishing as many test laboratories as possible, but I do not know if it will be feasible to have one test laboratory for each salt factory. In this connection I welcome the assurance given by the hon. Member or the hope expressed by him that if a test laboratory is asked to be set up at every factory, Government could pay in advance and then they could recoup the amount from the factories concerned.

Sir, there are other points to which reference was made. I do not want to make use of this opportunity to refer to them. I hope there will be a debate on this at the time of the budget estimates when I will give fuller information to hon. Members.

In conclusion, Sir, I am greatly gratified that there was a general welcome to this Bill and I hope that the next stage will be skipped—there are a number of amendments of which notice has been given—and the Bill passed unanimously by this House so that we may take it to the other House and have it enacted before both Houses adjourn.

Kumari Annie Mascarene: May I ask a question? The hon. Minister in his reply said that subsequently he is bringing a more comprehensive Bill. May I ask when the industry is fully developed, whether Government will relax this tax and give relief to the poor?

Shri S. S. More: Can't think about the future.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

> That the Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a cess on salt for the purpose of raising funds to meet the expenses incurred on the salt organisation maintained by Government and on the measures taken by Government in connection with the manufacture, supply and distribution of salt, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2— (*Definitions*)

Shri Ram Dass (Hoshiarpur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I beg to move:

In page I, line 21—*omit* "sajji"

Sir, by this amendment I do not ask the Government to make some sacrifice, but I ask for great relief......

Mr. Chairman: Amendment moved:

In page I, line 21—*omit* "sajji".

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am sorry, Sir, I cannot accept this amendment, for one or two good reasons. There is no idea of subjecting *sajji* to cessor anything like that, and I do not think it will be possible to actually work out this policy of levying cess if I accept the amendment of the hon. Member. I am therefore sorry I cannot accept it.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member want me to put it to the House or does he want the leave of the House to withdraw it.

Shri Ram Dass: I want to explain.

Mr. Chairman: There is no question of explaining now. He has moved it and a reply from the Government has been given. Now I am asking him whether I should put it to the House or he wants to withdraw it.

Shri Ram Dass: In view of the assurance given by the hon. Minister, I do not like to press it. I beg for leave to withdraw it.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3— (*Levy and collection of cess*)

Shri B. P. Sinha (Monghyr Sadr *cum* Jamui): I beg to move:

In page 2, line 25—

for "two annas" *substitute* "one anna".

In page 2, line 28—

for "three and a half annas" *substitute* "one anna".

Mr. Chairman: Amendments moved:

In page 2, line 25—
for "two annas" *substitute* "one anna".

In page 2, line 28—
for "three and a half annas" *substitute* "one anna".

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have already given reasons why such amendments annot be accepted.

Shri B. P. Sinha: Mr. Chairman, Sir. I want to speak on my amendments.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. The hon. Member has moved them.

Shri B. P. Sinha: I want to speak on them.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Shri S. S. More: He wants to make a speech.

Mr. Chairman: The hon. Member wants to make a speech now when the Minister has replied?

Shri S. S. More: The Minister was too quick for him.

Mr. Chairman: He moved the amendments and I gave him time earlier to speak. He did not make a speech then and now he wants to make a speech when the reply has been given by the Minister. I am now going to put them to the vote of the House.

The question is:

In page 2, line 25—

for "two annas" *substitute* "one anna".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

In page 2, line 28—

for "three and a half annas" *substitute* "one anna".

The motion was negatived.

Shri N. Somana (Coorg): I beg to move:

In page 2,

after line 28, *add*—

> "Provided that the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, exempt the whole or part of the Cess leviable under this Act, for salt of any specified category or for salt required for any specified purpose, or both."

Sir, there is an omission of the word 'for' in the last sentence. It should be 'or for both'.

An Hon. Member: Is it grammatical?

Shri N. Somana: Sir, this amendment goes practically to the root of the matter because the clause empowering this Government to make rules cannot give any power of exemption unless in the substantive Act itself the power is given. Clause 6 reads as follows:

> "The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act."

5 P.M.

Exemption is not one of the purposes of the Act. So, it will be *ultra vires* of the Government to frame any rules for exemption of salt of any kind. The substantive section must give the power to Government to exempt any particular salt. That is why I have moved a proviso to clause 3, where the power to levy a cess is given. Clause 3 is very clear on the matter.

> "There shall be levied and collected in such manner as may be prescribed a cess in the nature of an excise duty on all salt manufactured in the territories to which this Act extends."

So, if any salt has to be exempted, it must come only under the Act; it cannot be done by the rule-making power. The rule-making power cannot go beyond the substantive section itself. Though in the rule-making power, the power to grant any exemption is also given, it is only the manner of exemption that can be determined under the rules, and not the power of exemption. The power to exempt can only be given by a substantive section. So, I feel, Sir, that this is a lacuna in the Bill and, I hope, the Government may not stand on prestige because this goes to the root of the matter. If any rule is to be framed later on, it may be *ultra vires* of the powers of the Government itself. I hope the hon. Minister will kindly consider this matter and accept this amendment.

Shri K. C. Reddy: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I may explain the position very briefly. So far as the point urged by the hon.

Member goes, though it may appear to have great force, if you examine it correctly, I don't think there is any substance in what the hon. Member has said. There is no reason for the apprehension that he has in regard to this matter. I know the intention of the hon. Member is to help the Government to extricate themselves from a possible difficulty in which they might involve themselves later on in regard to this matter.

Well, Sir, the position is this. The provision enabling the Government, through rules, to make exemption in certain classes of cases, which are specifically mentioned in the Act itself, is also a provision of the Act. It is not as if the power conceded by clause 6 is not a power given by the Act itself. The Act itself gives that power and there can be no doubts regarding that.

Secondly, Sir, it is the general principle that a special provision will over-ride the general provision. Clause 3 of the Bill provides generally for the levy of a cess. Under clause 6, the Government is given the power to frame rules for exemption in specific cases. The power to give exemption is, therefore, valid. That is the opinion, which I have ascertained from the Ministry of Law and I don't think there is any reason to differ from that view.

I can give one or two instances where similar provisions have been made in Acts of a similar nature. Take for example, the Central Excise and Salt Tax Act of 1944, itself. There, under section 3 of the Act, a general power to levy a cess is given. Section 37 of the Act, at the same time, provides for the granting of certain exemptions.

So also, very recently, we passed a Bill in this very House—I am referring to the additional duty on mill-made cloth for the benefit of the handloom and khadi industries. If the hon. Member were to read that Bill, he will find the same sort of provision repeated there. Under clause 3, I believe, of that Bill, general power is given to levy a cess. Under the rule-making clause, power is given to exempt certain cases, almost similar to this. So, I do not think there is any legal difficulty. Sir, I think the Bill may stand as it is. Though I could have accepted the amendment, I find, after giving further consideration to it, that it is not really necessary.

Mr. Chairman: Does the hon. Member press his amendment?

Shri N. Somana: Since the hon. Minister is not prepared to accept the amendment, I do not wish to press it, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: I shall put clauses 4 to 6 together.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): All together, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: Yes, the Members seeking to move amendments are not here. Does the hon. Member want to speak on any of these clauses?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Yes, Sir; on clause 5.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5.— *(Validations of charges)*

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I only rise to point out the illegality which is generally perpetrated by the Government in assuming certain powers to itself; and, this is an example of it. The headnote or marginal note—whatever we may call it —of this clause is, 'Validation of charges levied on salt before the commencement of this Act.' Last year, when I was reading the report, I saw that a particular amount of cess was collected on salt and I was looking for an Act providing for the levy of the cess. I found none. Now, I find that this law which is now being made is not made for any *bona fide* purpose

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

—of actually finding it necessary to levy the cess, but a particular wrong was committed by the Salt and Excise Department, and, just to white-wash it, this law is being brought before the House.

Two provisions of law exist. Under Article 3(1) of the Constitution, we have provided that nobody shall be deprived of his property without an authority of law. How was this cess collected from people without any authority of law? It passes my comprehension in these enlightened days. We have got another provision of law—Article 265 of the Constitution—which says that no tax shall be levied without an authority of law. How was this tax levied from the people without any authority? After having done this mischief and wrong and perpetrated this fraud on thousands of people, the Government has now come forward with a provision which reads hereunder:

> "No claim shall lie in any court for the refund of any sum so paid."

What an atrocious thing it is! You want to regularise or legalise. In other language, that is not regularisation: it is illegal legalisation of a wrong which you have committed. And, how can you do that? Sir, they are putting our courts in India in a false position. On the one hand, you say that it was illegal, naturally militating against the provisions of the Constitution, the law that you have framed. Now, whenever such arguments will be advanced, the defence of the Government will be that they have provided for validation. Therefore, it will be said that no claim shall lie in any court for the refund of the sum so paid. Everyone worth his salt—whether he be an advocate or otherwise—will argue that you cannot make a law to change the Constitution of India by this wrong method. It is not possible to effect a change in the Constitution of India and more so, in the third part of the Constitution, by this provision under any circumstances. I, therefore, say that you are opening the doors—I should say the floodgate—of litigation. Instead of doing this, you ought to have come forward honestly and say "Here we have committed a mistake: here we have committed a wrong: here we have committed a blunder: we have been defrauding people: but now we found out that we have committed this blunder and therefore we are generous enough to return all the money which we have illegally collected from you." Instead of that you say "We have no doubt robbed you, deceived you and cheated you, but we will continue to swallow the money that we have taken from you. This type of legislation is wrong and it should not be attempted. The Government must always be very careful in legislating or bringing forward such a retrospective provision of law in matters which were done quite illegally. I know a wrong could have been committed by oversight in some cases. A mistake is one thing but here with our eyes open, we went on collecting from year to year and upto this day we are collecting. Therefore, this provision of law is militating against the provisions of the Constitution and unless you repeal Article 31(1) of the Constitution and invalidate it, you cannot go against it. Therefore, this position must be considered in all its aspects by the House.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The point raised by the hon. Member is a very important one. He has invoked the relevant Article of the Constitution as supporting his position. He has referred to Article 31(1) and Article 265. I do not know really how those Articles can be made use of in support of the stand he has taken. I would like to be quite honest about it. There is no question of Government trying to be dishonest and there is no intention on the part of Government to do anything in a dishonest manner as suggested by the hon. Member. I think he has assumed too much; he has assumed that what we have been doing all these years is robbery and is quite illegal; he has assumed that we are now convinced that we are doing illegal things. All these assumptions are absolutely baseless and unwarranted.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: That assumption is patent from your own clause.

Shri K. C. Reddy: The whole position is this. In some cases, doubts do crop up as to whether a particular action taken by Government under an existing Act or otherwise is strictly legal or not. When a Bill is passed into law and action is taken thereunder, it might appear later on after a review of the legal position, that something is not absolutely correct and there might be doubts. When such a situation arises, it has been the practice not only in this country but all over the world, to set right matters in order not to give room for doubts and place matters on an absolutely legal basis. I know there are hundreds of instances of that kind which have happened in the legislatures of the world and if I had the time, I could quote half a dozen instances in this country where action of a similar kind has been resorted to. Let me tell my friend respectfully that we have done nothing illegal, nothing wrong or nothing immoral and we have not come forward here to cover up any such thing by this sort of validating clause. Nothing of that kind. The hon. Member may feel satisfied that we are doing a perfectly legal and constitutional thing and what we seek to do here is one which deserves his support also.

Shri Raghavachari (Penukonda): Why is there not a word about it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons?

Mr. Chairman: Reference is made in the very first line of the Objects and Reasons—under section 37 etc.

Shri S. S. More: What is the total amount recovered in these doubtful cases, Sir?

An Hon. Member: Rs. 5 lakhs?

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 *was added to the Bill.*

Clause 6 *was added to the Bill.*

Clause 1 *was added to the Bill.*

The Title and the Enacting Formula were added to the Bill.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MOTION *RE* WORKING OF THE PREVENTIVE DETENTION ACT

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): I beg to move:

> "That the report on the working of the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, during the period 30th September, 1952 to 30th September 1953, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, I am happy that this debate begins in a rather hilarious mood and I hope it will continue in the same spirit. Really there is not much to be said. The statement which I have circulated must have put the House in possession of all the relevant facts and figures. Speaking for myself, I confess that I was rather astonished at the moderation which the State Governments have shown in this matter.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram (Visakhapatnam): The same old song.

Dr. Katju: If hon. Members can interrupt me, I think I can go on indefinitely, but I wish to finish as early as I can. When you are considering this Motion, I would utter a platitude and that is, that you will please remember the vast size of this country and that this Preventive Detention Act is intended by Parliament to assist State Governments as well as the Central Government in keeping order and preventing outbreaks of violence in an enormous area among 360 million people. It is not a country like Denmark, Belgium or

[Dr. Katju]

even England with only 5 or 6 crores of people.

Acharya Kripalani (Bhagalpur Purnea): Or even the United States.

Dr. Katju: I am coming to the United States in a minute.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Are you going to the United States?

Mr. Chairman: Let the hon. Minister proceed, without interruption.

Dr. Katju: Sometimes my hon. friend is very facetious, but I imagine he is often mistaken. I find that on the 30th September 1953 there were in detention altogether 157 people throughout India. The House would recollect that the statement which I have circulated covers the period of 12 months, namely, beginning from the 1st October 1952 to the 30th September 1953. On the day that this period ended, altogether, as I said just now, 157 were in detention. Then I asked whether we had received any information about the intervening two months and a half and I find that we have got some figures for the month of October 1953. This 157 has further been reduced by 40. Therefore, the result is that on the 31st October, 1953, there were 117 detenus. On the one hand, you have 36½ crores of people, and on the other hand, on the 31st October, you have 117 people. You draw your own inferences. I am not dilating that point.

Shri S. S. More: There is ample scope for further detenus, again.

Dr. Katju: There again, it is a facetious remark. I shall bear that in mind. It may be of some importance that so far as I am concerned, all my life has been spent in the law courts, in obedience to the law, in advocating causes for compliance with the law. And I want that no one should suffer without a trial by law. But it is no use anybody citing me the American Constitution and the Brazilian Constitution and the Dutch Constitution and goodness knows how many constitutions. In India, when we framed our Constitution, we recognized that the conditions may be very difficult and therefore in the Constitution itself provisions were inserted in accordance with which Parliament has passed this Detention Act. Now, I wish to remind the House of one particular matter, and that is, that before the first Preventive Detention Act was passed in April, every State Government had, what was called a Public Security Act of their own which was far more stringent. I have got numbers here showing how many people were detained, for instance, in the year 1947, 1948 and soon thereafter. When Parliament intervened, because this is a subject in the concurrent list, the State Governments practically, so to say, gave up their own provincial Acts and agreed to be bound by this Preventive Detention Act.

Now, I go a little further and say that from year to year, the Preventive Detention Act or the preventive detention machinery has been most carefully examined by Parliament and every year Parliament had introduced checks and counterchecks to ensure that though there may be no trial in a formal court of law, there should be a trial, take it from me, in a far more patent manner before three judges who should be able to deal in a human manner with the detenu. There is an advisory board. There are the grounds of objection. There is the intervening authority of the High Court and the Supreme Court. This machinery has not proved illusory. It will become apparent to you that the advisory boards have been very cautious in this matter, and I imagine that wherever they found the slightest opportunity of intervening, they have done so. The House would recollect that we had a great debate when this Bill was under discussion about the legal representation before the advisory board, and I ventured to say, as an old hand, that in this matter the detenu would be far better off if he were to go himself personally, unhampered by lawyers, because, then, he would be able to create a better impression, a more human impression and very likely he would be far more likely to succeed than he would if he were accompanied by a lawyer with the atmosphere that a lawyer always takes with him. That is the reason why we see that the advisory board has said: very well, we will interfere in a large number of cases. I do not know whether the advisory board thought at that time that when the order of detention was passed, detention was justified or not; or, they might have thought—they will not say so, just like the jury—well, we have seen this youngman, or middle-aged man; he looks pretty harmless; well, he has done about 20 days, and there has been some change, and therefore let him go. Apart from that, the Government itself has been very cautious and the number of detenus who were released by Government itself has been fairly large. In many cases the Supreme Court has intervened. I am always reluctant to say one word about the High Court and the Supreme Court judgments, because they are entitled to the greatest respect and reverence and we are all proud of our judiciary. But reading the judgments, in many cases what happens? Supposing the grounds for detention are five, four and a half are quite good. The remaining half is a little loosely worded, a little vague, and may not be in strict accordance with law. Now, what do the judges do? They say: well, here it is—four and a half good, half not so good, and the result is. the whole detention is bad. We cannot say with any confidence under what particular portion of these grounds of detention the Government has acted, and the benefit of this vagueness must go to the detenu. Hon. Members who are so inclined may read case after case where this thing has happened. I am not complaining. The judges administer the law and we are bound by it. That only means that the grounds of objection should be most carefully drafted and, very likely, vetted by some competent man. If the grounds of objection are dealt with in a summary manner, drawn up by some clerk or secretary who has no legal knowledge, then these mishaps may arise. The situation then arises: how have we suffered? You have got all the figures given to you one month ago from category to category. I do hope that the House will give us the credit for placing before you the amplest information available. I would ask, at the outset, to remember that many of the detenus were put in detention not because of their political activities but because in certain areas, there were criminal activities of different kinds. For instance, there were dacoits in PEPSU. There was the notorious Bhupat in Saurashtra.

An Hon. Member: He has gone away.

Dr. Katju: You cannot get rid of this habit. I hink I would ask the hon. Speaker to administer some sort of a pill or soothing thing to them. Well, it does not matter.

Then, I find that in Bombay, resort is taken to this Preventive Detention Act for putting goondas, as they call them, in detention. If you take all that stuff out and say: well, here it is; people are being put in because of their political activities,—I suggest to you with some confidence that any such argument will be totally unfounded. I claim this with some confidence. Please remember it is very easy to criticize. The hon. Members on the other side are in a position in which it is very easy to do so and it is their duty to criticize, and they are at liberty to criticize. But goodness only knows what good they would have done, if they had changed places?

An Hon. Member: Much.

Dr. Katju: You would have been the Godess of liberty and freedom and you would have put everybody through court, and I can say of some other people who might have been liquidated in a different fashion!

Comparisons, Mr. Chairman, are odious. I imagine that if some other system of Government were in force, every single person who is for the

[Dr. Katju]

accused would have confessed within two months. A court would have been constituted and he would have been hanged, or sentenced for ten years. It all depends. Now I shall be hearing speeches of all sorts, of prayers to the Godess of liberty and freedom, of trials, no detention without trial, etc. It is all very easy. Now, I suggest to you....

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): You did not talk like this when the British were here.

Dr. Katju: For God's sake please consider in an objective and dispassionate manner as to what has happened during the past twelve months in India? Have we not gone through rather troublous times?

An Hon. Member: No.

Dr. Katju: Has not violence been preached? Take for instance, Calcutta. I am not going into the merits of it. There was the tram fare agitation, setting buses on fire, etc. I have been in Calcutta: I have noticed these things.

Here in Delhi, nearer home, for one or two months people were coming into Delhi from all parts of India, with the declared object of breaking the law. Now what is to be done?

Acharya Kripalani: Hang a few!

Dr. Katju: I shall leave it to you.

Acharya Kripalani: Rather than endanger society, hang a few!

Dr. Katju: I shall follow your advice; it may be good.

An Hon. Member: It is very good.

Dr. Katju: If you go to that extent, namely, hang a few by way of example so that you may preserve peace throughout the land, it is a matter worthy of consideration. We are only putting them in detention for a period which cannot extend twelve months. Please remember that....

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): Hang for a month!

Dr. Katju: When the matter comes up at the end of 1954, I really do not know what Parliament will do, or what the motion before you may be. It is a good thing—you consider it dispassionately—having an Act like this as a permanent feature on your Statute Book is in the public interest, a useful thing.

Now everywhere there has been some sort of trouble: in Travancore-Cochin, in Hyderabad.

An Hon. Member: What is there in Travancore-Cochin?

Shri S. S. More: The Congress have been defeated.

Dr. Katju: There are labour troubles. There are my friends, brothers, sisters, going on hunger strikes. If they go on hunger strikes in their homes, they are at liberty to do so. But they prefer to go on hunger strikes at some public place, leading to all sorts of incidents. I wish I had placed before you what things are published in the newspapers, what speeches are delivered. I tell you it is awful. You gentlemen will now stand up and say that this preventive detention has been abused. Can anybody say it has been abused. That is a question which I put to you.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: This law itself is an abuse.

Dr. Katju: I understand it, because you say.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Everybody says it is a lawless law.

Dr. Katju: The hon. lady Member has every right to say that this law is an abuse. But that was an argument which Parliament rejected last year.

This is a very important matter. We had a debate lasting for seventeen days in this House and for about thirteen days in the other House. The general theme of the speeches which came from the other side was, a phrase which I have not been able to understand, that it is a lawless law. But Parliament rejected your argument. What is the good of repeating it? I gave an undertaking last year that opportunity would be afforded to Parliament to examine and survey how the law has worked.

In considering this measure the House has to bear two important considerations in mind: whether conditions in the country have changed and whether it has been abused in the past. I do not know what your arguments would be. It is no good repeating the old arguments that there should not be any detention without trial, that the Constitution grants you the fundamental right of expression, this, that and the other. I would like to hear the criticism. Has the law been abused anywhere?

Several Hon. Members: Everywhere.

Dr. Katju: Then I should like to have instances of it.

Acharya Kripalani: Please read the judgments of the High Courts.

Dr. Katju: Please remember that maintenance of law and order and security in the land is the primary responsibility of the State Governments.

Shri S. S. More: Of the British too.

Dr. Katju: When freedom came we were functioning under the Security Acts of the State Governments. Now the opinion of these State Governments is unanimous that this measure should continue for at least one year: the Act should be allowed to run out its period.

Shri S. S. More: Was any whip issued?

Dr. Katju: None whatsoever. It is their free expression of opinion. I myself personally would have been most happy to tell you today—you would have thrown garlands on me: "We have decided to withdraw this Act, or to treat it as a dead letter". It is no pleasure for me to ask for its extension. In fact, remarks are being made, which if I may be permitted to say so, are so easy to make: it is all copy-book eloquence,—talking of freedom and liberty and what not. The difficulty is mine. I have got to show that there have been no excesses.

Now the question is twofold. What was the state of affairs during the past twelve months, how difficult a period it has been all through, in Andhradesa and elsewhere. I do not wish to go into details. And what are the coming events? Are you quite sure that the times are normal? I am not at all. When I read the speeches of this leader and that leader, I find all sorts of threats are being held out. Then crime is on the increase, with the result that people are afraid. The other day I had been to Morena in Madhya Bharat, where people are abducted and held for ransom. What is to be done for that? Here the intelligence is reliable—that dacoits are being harboured in the villages, and are fed by the villagers. Do you mean to say in the absence of any evidence the Police should sit completely idle and allow these things to go on? Let us take a realistic view of these matters, and not be carried away by what we call copy-book maxims,—a copy-book maxim which I expect to hear in a short time.

So far as the working of the Act is concerned the figures are those in which the House may be interested. We started with 1,839 people in detention on the 30th June, 1951. Month after month the State Governments have been most careful to see that recourse to these provisions is made only in the most imperative circumstances. I find that on the 31st December we had 1,865. On 30th June, 1952 the figure was 1,190. On the 31st December, 1952 it had come down to 338. And on the 30th June, 1953 it was 139. So you will not be able to say as if the State Governments have been playing with this. That is not the case at all. And I go further and I say that this Act has really served

[Dr. Katju]

a most beneficent purpose. It is no good allowing people to commit a crime and then sending them to seven, eight or ten years' imprisonment or even to the gallows. If you take action, provided your evidence is reliable and credible, you stop the mischief at the very source. It is good for that individual, it is good for the country, it is good for everybody.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Did I hear the hon. Minister to say if the evidence is reliable?

Dr. Katju: Yes. What is wrong with it?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: It is all right.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: You will hear about it.

Dr. Katju: Of course I will hear about it! What I know as a practitioner in the law courts is this. People are prosecuted, they are guilty and they ought to be hanged. But the law courts say "here is a little bit of a doubt" and they acquit the man. And what do the people do? The people take the law into their own hands, and as soon as this acquitted individual comes out of the sessions court he is killed or shot, or when he reaches the village he is finished then and there. Of course you may say that the evidence was unreliable because the court found so.

Shri S. S. More: So for his own safety you detain him!

Dr. Katju: That is a good point. As I go on with my speech I am becoming more and more indebted to the strong points from my learned friend. He is a very keen lawyer himself.

Now my submission to you, Sir, is that in the statement which has been circulated I have quoted in extenso the undertaking which was given by me on behalf of Government. You get all the figures, you get the views of the State Governments. We have considered the matter as carefully as we can and we have come to the conclusion that this Act must be allowed to run its normal course till we discuss it next year. It would be dangerous and it would not be consistent with national interests to withdraw it at present. Because there is so much uncertainty. Please remember, I am not blaming any particular party. It is not my habit.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Since when?

Dr. Katju: Because we know each other's views. All of us know our policies, our creeds, our beliefs, whether we advocate violence or do not advocate violence, what we stand for and what we do not stand for, and what is actually happening in the country. You may deny here what is actually happening in the country, but in your heart of hearts you will not be able to deny it. If suppose I ask this question outside in the lobbies, I think many hon. friends will say "yes, it is a right course of action". Even my hon. friend Mr. Trivedi will say so.

Shri S. S. More: Come out to the lobby!

Shri U. M. Trivedi: You are presuming too much, I think.

Dr. Katju: Sometimes these professions of goodwill and cordiality and intense love on the floor of the House carry very little weight either with benches here or people outside, because they know you all.

Shri K. K. Basu: That is the real thing.

Dr. Katju: I did not catch what my friend said.

Shri K. K. Basu: We accept it.

Shri S. S. More: Go on.

Dr. Katju: I do not think it is really necessary to go further into this matter. If there is anything which may be suggested as of importance, I shall deal with it at the end. But I should like to say here that under the Act a man can be detained for a variety of reasons, and these statements will tell you how many have been detained because their being free was rather detrimental to the peace of India or the security of India or to its foreign relations, how many had been dealing in anti-social activities, how many had been dealing in ordinary crime. And most of all, this Government so long as it continues in office will never, never—there should be no misunderstanding on that point —will never, never tolerate any preaching of violence and to the best of our power we would try to stop it. The State Governments have been carrying in the last twelve months a very heavy burden. In every State, particularly in some States the burden has been extremely heavy. They have done it with credit, and I say that they might have been with justification a little more stringent. For instance, take the Lucknow University. Everybody knows what happened—police stations burnt, buses burnt, offices, police stations looted. Do the students do it? Are not people behind them? Is it not desirable that some people should be shut up for all this.

An Hon. Member: 'Shut up'.

Mr. Chairman: Order, order. What is the use of repeating his very words?

Dr. Katju: This Act is serving a beneficent purpose and should continue to operate.

Mr. Chairman: Motion moved:

> "That the report on the working of the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, during the period 30th September, 1952 to 30th September, 1953, be taken into consideration."

There are many amendments of which notice has been given. They are generally of two kinds. Some amendments say that the Act should be allowed to continue. Others say that it should be discontinued. This is the general nature of these amendments. Amendment No. 1 says that the Act should be continued and amendment No. 3 that it should be discontinued. The rest of the amendments are on the same lines. I would rather like that only these two amendments are moved and then the matter will be discussed. Shri Raghubir Sahai may, if he wants, move his amendment.

Shri Raghubir Sahai (Etah Distt.—North East *cum* Badaun Distt.—East): May I also say a few words, Sir?

Mr. Chairman: He need only move it without speech.

Shri Raghubir Sahai: I beg to move:

That in the motion, the following be added at the end:

> "and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that there is ample justification for continuing the Act upto the specified period."

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I beg to move:

That in the motion, the following be added at the end:

> "and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that there is no sufficient justification for continuing the Act up to the specified period."

Mr. Chairman: Amendments moved:

That in the motion, the following be added at the end:

> "and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that there is ample justification for continuing the Act upto the specified period."

That in the motion, the following be added at the end:

> "and having considered the same, this House is of opinion that there is no sufficient justification for continuing the Act up to the specified period."

Dr. Katju: May I just intervene and submit, Sir, that there are two amendments, one for continuance and the other for discontinuance. That covers the whole case.

An Hon. Member: Columbus discovered America.

Mr. Chairman: I take it that the other Members do not propose to move their amendments because they are on the same lines.

Shri R. C. Sharma (Morena-Bhind): These two amendments do not cover my amendment, Sir. I have an amendment, No. 6.

Mr. Chairman: The amendment is practically covered except that the hon. Member has also suggested that the law be made a permanent one. That is the only difference. We are here only concerned with the motion that the report on the working of the Preventive Detention Act be taken into consideration. The whole discussion will be limited to this: that is, the report on the working be taken into consideration.

Shri R. C. Sharma: After consideration, we may come to the conclusion that it should be made a permanent law.

Mr. Chairman: Substantially, it is the same.

Shri P. N. Rajabhoj (Sholapur—Reserved—Sch. Castes): I have an amendment in List No. 2, Sir.

Mr. Chairman: There is nothing in list No. 2. It appears that the hon. Member has given notice today. It cannot be taken up. Now Shri Acharya Kripalaniji.

Acharya Kripalani: As I rise to speak on this Motion, I am reminded of one who sat on these Benches and year after year raised his powerful voice against this Bill. But, this distinguished son of India did not know that he himself would be a prey to this Act and lose his life in jail. Today it is natural for the Opposition to miss him.

Shri M. P. Mishra (Monghyr North-West): He was not detained under this Act.

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani: Similar one. (*Interruption*).

An Hon. Member: A cousin.

Acharya Kripalani: It is very sad and very depressing that history should have no lesson to teach politicians, and that repeatedly old patterns of conduct always re-appear. Those who have been oppressed and suppressed, when they are oppressed and suppressed, talk of justice, talk of human rights, talk of conscience, and of morality. Unfortunately, when they themselves are installed in seats of power, they forget that they do the very things about which they have been so loudly complaining.

Shri N. M. Lingam (Coimbatore): Will that apply to you also?

Acharya Kripalani: Whether it will apply to me, that is not the question here. If you admit that it applies to you, it is enough for me. When my turn, comes you can also apply it to me. But, it applies to you, to the Treasury Benches now.

Shri N. M. Lingam: That is what you say.

Acharya Kripalani: That is what I say. But, you by your remark admit it. When you say will it apply to me, you admit that you imply that what I say is correct and it does apply to you.

Mr. Chairman: I would request the hon. Members not to interrupt. Otherwise, the whole effect of the speech is gone.

Acharya Kripalani: A short while ago, we waged a non-violent war against foreign imperialism. We did it in the name of justice; we did it in the name of equity; we did it in the name of the moral law. We resisted arbitrary laws imposed by the foreign Government. We called them lawless laws. We called them Black Acts. The whole of our Independence movement started from these Black Acts the Rowlatt

Acts. Because we resisted these Acts not one person was arrested under the Rowlatt Acts. The justification given in those days by the foreign Government was the very same as is being given today by the hon. Home Minister. What is the reason given? In substance, it is this: "the ideas and principles which were sacred to us before our liberation when we were fighting for the cause of the country's freedom, those ideas which were cherished by our people and which formed part and parcel of our being, have become outmoded and we have no use for them. Sir, we are told that they are outmoded and we have no use for them. Not only this but another reason is also trotted out. We are told that today those who hold power are Indians. We are further told that these Indians are the representatives of the people. As if India has always suffered from the tyranny of the foreigners. It was only for a century and a half that India suffered at the hands of foreigners. For centuries this land had been suffering from those who were children of the soil.

6 P.M.

Even recently, even under British rule, the most oppressed people were those who were living under the rule of the Indian Princes. These princes were Indians. There is no guarantee that because people belong to the same nationality they will not tyrannise their own countrymen. Tyrants mostly tyrannise their own people. It is only at short intervals that foreign tyranny sometimes intervenes. To say again that the representatives of the people cannot be tyrannous is another fallacy, not borne out by history. History shows that a democracy can be totalitarian, that a democracy can crush the rights of the people as effectively as no Government or Emperor ever can. In democracy today, the executive weilds much more power than did Charles I. Charles I indulged only in minor arbitrary acts our executive—not only in India, but everywhere else—are much more powerful and if they go wrong they do much more mischief. I am sure Hitler was a representative of his people, and even in a free election he would have got more votes than the Congress did in the last elections. I say in China and Russia today, rulers can say that in free elections they would get more votes from their people than were received by our rulers here.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy (Salem): Will that be a free election?

Acharya Kripalani: I only say that they can say, and rightly say, that the Government in China even in the freest election will get much more votes than the Congress got here. (*Interruption.*)

An Hon. Member: Question.

Acharya Kripalani: Ask those, even the officials, who have visited China.

The hon. Home Minister has told us, that this law is constitutional. He forgets that sometimes you may keep the letter of the law and violate its spirit. Article 22 is given in the Chapter entitled "Fundamental Rights". This is the Chapter for the guarding of fundamental rights, while this Bill has been passed to violate our fundamental rights.

Let us see the history of this Act. It was first introduced in 1950 by the late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Speaking in this House, he said that he had passed two sleepless nights over it because it was an Act that deprived the citizens of their fundamental rights and civil liberties. Unfortunately, the present Home Minister does not lose one wink of sleep, though he has introduced this now for the second time. (*Interruption.*) I am told he has no heart.

Dr. Lanka Sundaram: He is telling to himself.

Acharya Kripalani: I suppose when he defended many years back, the Communist in the Conspiracy Case, he did not say that he had no heart. He in that case gave the very same

[Acharya Kripalani]

arguments that we on this side of the House are using today. But I suppose he was younger then.

Dr. Katju: When?

Acharya Kripalani: I will repeat. I said that he seemed to have some heart then.

Dr. Katju: Who?

Some Hon. Members: You.

Acharya Kripalani: The Home Minister. I do not know about you or me here. We are only so many Members of this House. I am talking of the Home Minister. I am not talking of Dr. Katju: He is a very amiable person and a lovable person. But I must say as a Home Minister he is a misfit. I was saying he was the defence counsel in the Meerut Conspiracy Case. —Against whom was this case instituted? Against our Communist brothers who have become bloody enemies now.

Dr. Katju: May I just intervene and say that at that time, the Communists had only talked, but done nothing? You ask Professor Mukerjee, he will tell you.

Acharya Kripalani: But the Home Minister does not know that the Communists of today have developed from that talk. If he had been a little more careful, if he had known that he himself would be a Home Minister one day, he would not have touched that case.

Our Home Minister thinks that this world is a comic stage, that nothing matters, that things go on as usual, that this is a world, which is a huge joke, and therefore he is perpetually laughing at everything. It is a very enviable quality, I like it. But sometimes, when one is put in a responsible position, one has got to take the world a little more seriously, and one has to take his own actions seriously. I am sure, the Home Minister, will, in his concluding speech come out with a philosophy about detention without trial, and he will tell us that there are many countries, where arbitrary laws exist. He will say, there is Russia, there is China, there is Japan, there is Honolulu, there is Timbaktu, and he will expound to us a philosophy of arbitrary rule, a philosophy of dictatorial rule. He will tell us that there is nothing very much in these things and why are you bothered. Of course, we are bothered, because we have believed in certain principles, and we have not yet been raised to the Treasury Benches, to have convenient memories, and forget our principles.

This Bill was introduced by late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and when he introduced it, he said that it was meant against Communalism, that had spread in the country on account of the partition of the country. Then came Shri C. Rajagopalachari, and after him our esteemed friend, the present Home Minister. The latter two told us, that the act was meant for the Communists. Dr. Katju also told us last year that he was going to introduce this measure, because of Hyderabad, because of Saurashtra, and because of PEPSU. In PEPSU, we have now a Governor's rule, and I suppose everything is all right in that part of the country; in Saurashtra, there is no more agitation against the sales tax; so far as Hyderabad is concerned the Communists are now in the Assembly there. For whom is this Act now? We are told that it is for the Communist activities, and the Home Minister has made no secret about this fact. He said that the Communists this side would not only pass such an Act but would liquidate the Opposition. But I thought we were living in a democracy. What one would or would not do in a totalitarian state is absolutely irrelevant under a democratic regime. If we have to take our lessons from totalitarian countries and justify our action on the model of these countries, let us frankly say that we do not believe in democracy. Why this camouflage, why this hypocrisy? Then better dispense with this House, dispense with the elections and then you can do what you like. There will be nobody to resist you, excepting that Nemesis will over come you sooner than under a democracy.

The Communist representatives have been with us for the last two years. I have been sitting in their midst for some time and I can say that they are, like Dr. Katju, very amiable people. Not only are they amiable, but they are soft-tongued. They are so except when they are excited. That is true of me, that is true of the Treasury Benches. That is true of our Prime Minister. Then sometimes these friends of ours play to the gallery. We also sometimes play to the gallery. If there is a gallery in this House....

Shri N. M. Lingam: As you are doing.

Acharya Kripalani: I am doing it. I am saying it myself. Why do you intervene? You feel if you interrupt you come a little nearer to the Treasury Benches. Wait a while. Don't be in hurry. My friend who wanted this Act to be made perpetual—I do not know why Dr. Katju or our Prime Minister has not called him nearer to the Treasury Benches. I know these tricks.

Shri N. M. Lingam: You are older than me.

Acharya Kripalani: If I had known better than you, I would have been on the Treasury Benches. I do not know when you came to the Congress. I never saw your face when I was General Secretary of the Congress. I was saying that the Communist friends here, if appearances are not deceptive, belong less to the proletariat than many Congress men.

Shri N. M. Lingam: When did you leave the Congress?

Mr. Chairman: Order, order.

Acharya Kripalani: You will find out the date. When the Congress refused to follow Mahatma Gandhi and when there was corruption and deception in the Congress when the Congress uttered the name of Gandhiji but killed his soul.

An Hon. Member: You are irrelevant.

Acharya Kripalani: It is your people who interrupt. If they do, they must have it.

The Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Scientific Research (Shri K. D. Malaviya): Please go ahead.

Mr. Chairman: Let there be no interruptions. Let the hon. Member proceed.

Acharya Kripalani: I do not want to attack the Congress. I was one of those who built the Congress. It goes against my grain to have some people who have newly come to the Congress, whose faces I have never seen, interrupt and asked me 'When did you leave the Congress?' I left the Congress, I tell you I left the Congress as anybody would have left his home. Congress was my home. I knew no other address but the Congress; I knew no other party but the Congress. He must also understand to whom he is talking.

Shri N. R. M. Swamy (Wandiwash): Ignore him.

Acharya Kripalani: They are small frys, but they are large bugs.

I was saying that our Communist friends are soft-tongued....

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Now talk to the gallery.

Acharya Kripalani: ...and if appearances are to be believed, some of them look less like those who have come from the proletariat than many of the Congressmen.

Some of the Communists speak very good English, the King's English or the Queen's English now.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri A. P. Jain): You are both the King and the Queen here.

Acharya Kripalani: They have Oxford accents, as good as our Prime Minister. But, I am mistaken, the Prime Minister has not Oxford accent;

[Acharya Kripalani]

he has Cambridge accent. What difference between these two do you and I know, Sir? After entering into the Legislatures, the Communists have acquired many bourgeoisie habits. They even play cricket with the Treasury Benches and the Prime Minister. And, cricket, as you know, is an Imperial game; no non-Imperial people ever play it. In Kashmir, as the Treasury Benches know more than myself, they are in alliance with the Congress. Am I not right?

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Only when they play cricket.

Acharya Kripalani: In Travancore-Cochin, they are offering terms of friendship to the P.S.P. They are today more in line with the foreign policy of the Government than the P.S.P. They have completely rehabilitated themselves. To think that the Prime Minister contemplates this act to be used against the Communists today is absurd. We are again told the act will be used against those who are likely to rebel against this Government. Against whom is there likely to be a rebellion? This Government, whether at the Centre or in the Provinces, is conducted by patriots, who fought the good battle of freedom and who are respected leaders of the people. More over the Government is being carried on by people who have again won the last election, and have got the majority behind them. The people have again selected them as their leaders. Why are the chosen of the people afraid of any rebellion? Public opinion is with them. Everywhere, there is somebody or the other, in the Provinces and the Centre, who is the embodiment of the area he rules.

Then, we have our Prime Minister who is the head on the Government. I have never seen, in any other country, a more popular Prime Minister than we have here. I do not think, so far as I know history, any dictator was more loved by his people than our Prime Minister here. He is Uncle Nehru to the children; he is Prince Charming to the ladies.

An Hon. Member: What about Santa Claus during Christmas?

Acharya Kripalani: He is a man of masses; he comes from the classes. The socialists leaders like him even though this is objected to by the rank and file of the Praja Socialist Party. The Communists have easy access to him.

Shri K. D. Malaviya: Because they play cricket sometimes.

Acharya Kripalani: Among intellectuals he is litterateur among the artists he is an artist. Among the scientists he is a scientist and presides over the every Science Conferences. He is a philosopher among philosophers, having re-discovered India for us.

Shri G. H. Deshpande (Nasik—Central): On a point of order, Sir; what has all this to do with the present Bill under consideration?

Mr. Chairman: It is not a point of order at all. So far, the hon. Member has been developing the point that it is unnecessary to direct the Act against the Communists. Now, he says the Congress Government is so strong that it does not require this law. It is all relevant.

Dr. Katju: Is that his argument or are you developing it, Sir?

Acharya Kripalani: When I criticise the Government, I am heckled. When I praise the Prime Minister, then also I am heckled. I can never satisfy Congressmen.

Mr. Chairman: It is now 6-20 p.m. and there is a very long list of speakers with me. Will the hon. Member try to finish his speech by 6-30 p.m.?

Acharya Kripalani: As the Chairman said, I am now developing my argument. You must give me, Sir, some time more. I was rather speaking slowly.

I was saying why should this Government be afraid. They are popular with the people; they are popular with all classes; they have a leader who is universally liked and I was going to say that even the capitalists consider our Prime Minister as their last refuge. They know that if he goes the Praja Socialists or the Communists may come in his place. So, he is the favourite or the last refuge of the capitalists also.

What for is this Act needed?—I ask the Home Minister again. For Defence! Against whom will you use this act when all the sections of the people are with you and you so often claim that the country is with you! The Home Minister would say defence against robbers. Defence against the *goondas* of Bombay. Can a Government fall because of *goondas*? Can a Government fall because there is a little riot here and there? I can assure the Home Minister that this Government will either fall by the vote or by a rebellion in the army. It will not fall because of street brawls, not because of little riots here and there, not because a few students go on hunger strike. There is no other way of bringing about the fall of a modern government. Modern governments have powerful weapons of all descriptions to cope with any temporary riot or rising. There can be no rebellion against a modern government, excepting when the army deserts it. Even in Russia, it was so. What then is the meaning of security of India? What do you mean by the security of any State? Can any State be insecure when the Government of India is secure?

The fourth reason for passing this act is possible danger to public order. This phrase 'public order'—we have heard it so often in the time of the British Government! It is a vague term and one can never understand its meaning. It may be used for anybody or any thing. Even the university strike at Lucknow the Home Minister holds was a threat to public order. He does not know the facts about that strike. Let me tell him that this university strike, even as the A.I.C.C. Resolution says, was because the Members of the Government, the Ministers—and I am sorry to say—people higher than Ministers intervened in the affairs of the students. They say our students are unruly. Do they expect fathers and grandfather like me to be mischievous. It is the privilege of the young to be mischievous. Even the A.I.C.C. Resolution has made clear to those who understand it that it was the differences among the Congressmen that produced the trouble at Lucknow.

Then, this act applies also to relations between India and foreign powers. I say if the Congress Government were not in power, this Act would be used against the high functionaries in the Congress for the agitation they have started against the military pact between Pakistan and U.S.A. It is a legitimate agitation but a Government unfavourably inclined towards Pakistan or America would certainly bring into action the provisions of this Act and lock up all these people. What a dangerous thing this is? Today, the agitation is against Pakistan and America, and you can participate in it without danger because the agitation is approved by the Government; and tomorrow, if we do it. against power which is friendly to you, you will lock us up under the provisions of this act.

The fifth clause applies to obstruction in the supplies and services to the community. These are things which, everywhere in the world, are regulated through the penal code. I say these provisions are there because of the inefficiency of your administration, because of the inefficiency of your C.I.D. I tell the Home Minister that his own house is not in order, that his services are not efficient. If you had a proper police, if you had a proper C.I.D., if the Home Minister was really doing his job properly he would not require the provisions of this Act. Nowhere are they requisitioned for the purpose he has provided them for. Your own

[Acharya Kripalani]

defects, your own shortcomings, your own inefficiency, you want to cover up by this extraordinary Act. Eight years have passed since the war ended and still this Act remains on the statute book. Does the House know that in no democracy such an act is found today?

Now, let us see what is the opinion of the highest judiciary? Dr. Katju has very glibly talked of the judiciary. I wish the Minister would not so insidiously attack the judiciary. It is the only defence left to safeguard the liberty of the poor citizen. The High Court of Bombay has in a case referred to it under this act said:

> "In all matters which have come before us, we have been distressed to find how meagre and unsatisfactory the grounds are that the detaining authority furnishes to the detenu. We are compelled to say that in almost every case we have felt that the grounds could have been ampler and fuller without any detriment to the public interest". The Supreme Court, in this very case, opined that "there has been quite an unnecessary obscurity on the part of the detaining authority in stating the grounds of the order."

Who, Sir, are the detaining authorities? They are the District Magistrates. They are the Chief Commissioners of Police.

An Hon. Member: I.C.S.

Acharya Kripalani: Under what regime were they trained? They were trained under an arbitrary regime. They had their training under the British. They are saturated with imperialistic ideas. If you give so much power to these people, they may misuse it. They are comparatively petty officials. I say "comparatively", because in England, I am told that the Home Minister himself looks into every case. These are small officers, not brought up in traditions of freedom. Even the Home Minister cannot say that they have been brought up in traditions of freedom, and respect for the fundamental and civil rights of the people. You leave us to the tender mercies of these people. You leave our liberties, you leave our fundamental rights in their hands. And sometimes, it has happened often this, power you have given them,—it must be known to the Home Minister—against Labour leader, against labour workers and against members of parties opposed to the party in power. I have now with me a report from Rajasthan. It says:

> "The Rajasthan Government has always used the provisions of the Preventive Detention Act for crushing opposition in the State. So far only one judgment of the Rajasthan High Court has been published in the All India Report, 1953, at page 177. In this case one Durg Singh had moved the Rajasthan High Court, against his detention, under Article 226 of the Constitution and it was held by the Division Bench consisting of Chief Justice Wanchoo and Justice Bapra that the grounds supplied to the petitioner were too vague. He was set at liberty.
>
> "Similarly, in the month of August 1953 about thirteen persons, including one Communist M.L.A., and five socialists of Jaipur were detained under the Act in connection with the agitation—mind you 'agitation'—against the imposition of the house and octroi tax. They were arrested for launching opposition to the house and octroi tax in Jaipur City by the Rajasthan Government. All the detenus were released by the High Court; but the judgment has not yet been published.

Dr. Katju, the Home Minister, has told us that there are about 117 detenus left. But does it not appear to the Home Minister that whenever cases have been examined, whenever the High Court has intervened, there have been releases?

Mr. Chairman: It is past six thirty: how long will the hon. Member take.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Nobody else from our party will speak.

Mr. Chairman: It is not a question of this party or the other. Several hon. Members are anxious to speak and they must be given an opportunity.

Acharya Kripalani: Some latitude must be given to persons who very rarely speak.

Mr. Chairman: The House will then stand adjourned till half past one tomorrow.

The House adjourned till Half Past One of the Clock on Tuesday, the 22nd December 1953.